

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MONTHLY MEETING  
FEBRUARY 21, 2012**

**SUBJECT TO APPROVAL**

**CALL TO ORDER**

J. Rodorigo called the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Beacon Falls Park and Recreation Commission to order at 7:05 PM.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: B. Egan, S. Osowiecki, J. Rodorigo, S. Ruhl, A. Sirowich

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: A. Enquist, L. Swanson

OTHERS PRESENT: None.

**MINUTES**

**S. Osowiecki made a motion to approve the January, 2012 minutes, as presented. B. Egan seconded the motion. All ayes.**

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. MATTHIES PARK**

1. J. Rodorigo reported that FuturePast Preservation is in the process of interviewing people on the history of the park and he is compiling these historical narratives. He will be present at the March, 2012 regular meeting with a report.
2. The town crew received a quotation to fix the leaking boathouse roof for \$4,500 and they are seeking a second quotation for comparison, as requested by the Board of Selectmen.

**B. PENT ROAD**

1. The town crew is working on issues with fencing, netting, and repairs to the batting cages.
2. Regarding the roofs for the dugouts on Field #4, they were not designed to have roofs when they were installed. Orange Fence explained that they need to modify the existing dugouts in order to install roofs. The RACBL specified the design of the dugouts and they were not originally designed to have roofs. Quotes on the roofing will go to the RACBL.
3. Field #3 also needs to be modified with dugouts, and there is a safety issue on Field #3 regarding the entrance into the field of play. These issues are being reviewed.
4. J. Rodorigo reported that it has been difficult to get fencing companies to come out to complete the quotes. He has spoken with Perfection Fence which is one of the best fencing contractors in the state and the most expensive. The better quality fencing is at a higher cost, and the question becomes whether the higher quality is worthwhile in

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the long run, because there would be less repairs and replacement of the fencing over time.

**C. RIVERBEND PARK**

J. Rodorigo reported that we are stilling awaiting a response from the State of Connecticut. The Eagle Scout hedge row project remains the only significant work which has taken place at this park.

**D. SPORTS LEAGUES**

1. The Softball League sign-ups are down with approximately 65 players (from 80-90 players). The League is looking at ways to encourage more players to sign up, so they can increase the number of teams playing.
2. Basketball League is wrapping up in March and running smoothly. The basketball leagues numbers were also down in the mid-age range of 10-12 year olds. S. Ruhl noted that the numbers are reflective of the middle school population's downward trend.
3. A. Sirowich stated that Prospect Soccer recreation league sign-ups are online and ongoing until March 1<sup>st</sup>.

**E. PARK ACTIVITIES**

1. A. Sirowich reported that the Winter/Spring after school programs are running well with good numbers of participants. Programs which are running: Bakery programs, Flanders Nature Center, 2 sections of Video Game Design, Drawing, Salmon class, and Spanish.
2. The Superintendent of Schools sent a letter home to parents regarding supervision of children at after school programs. The letter was intended to encourage more parent supervision at basketball practices and games. A. Sirowich and J. Rodorigo both spoke with the Superintendent on this matter. A. Sirowich noted that students are escorted to their after school programs and the students are with an adult at all times until dismissal.
3. J. Rodorigo reported that Parks & Recreation has worked with the Senior Citizens on two shows, one was a Seven Angels matinee in January and the second is a show in Seymour this weekend. Parks & Recreation provided funds towards the cost of the tickets. J. Rodorigo asked that in the future the Senior Center put these outings on a schedule, so that Parks & Recreation can budget and advertise accordingly.
4. J. Rodorigo is looking into a Beacon Falls night at the Sound Tigers, where Parks & Recreation will provide discounted tickets to residents. If the group is large enough, there is an opportunity to hold the flag on center ice during the National Anthem. The commissioners agreed this was a worthwhile event to pursue.
5. The Library and Parks and Recreation will be co-hosting an Astronomy program in April.
6. J. Rodorigo noted that he has had a lot of calls on upcoming events for groups that hope to use the parks, including: a family bike day for Connecticut Outdoors Day, a repeat of the 5k race on Family Day, an Autism Walkathon, and the Conservation Commission hopes to use Matthies Park for their forum in the fall.

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**E. COMMUNITY MEDIA CENTER COMMITTEE**

The CMC Committee has been suspended by the Board of Selectmen. **S. Osowiecki made a motion to remove the CMC Committee from the agenda. B. Egan seconded the motion. All ayes.**

**NEW BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Pepsi is hosting a Volunteer Day where groups apply to Pepsi stating their community service project and if approved, Pepsi will provide help, volunteers, and product to support the project. Volunteer Day is May 19, 2012 and the application is due by March 2, 2012. Members of the commission felt it was worthwhile to apply. S. Ruhl asked about the number of volunteers that Beacon Falls can provide. J. Rodorigo will pursue this.
2. The Board of Selectmen has appointed Rich Minnick as their liaison for Toby's Pond. Rich is looking for volunteers to help with this project and he is holding a meeting Wednesday night at 7:00 PM, if anyone is interested in joining him. J. Rodorigo was asked to attend this meeting.

**APPLICATIONS**

- A. The commission is awaiting applications from the leagues for the spring sports season. The deadline for applications is towards the end of March.
- B. The commissioners reviewed the revisions made to the 2012 Facilities Application, which included fee changes on page 2 and a suggested donation for Matthies Park pavilion. S. Osowiecki corrected a typo on page 5 of the application where a "b" needs to be added to the word "by". **A. Sirowich made a motion to accept the 2012 Facilities Application with these amendments. B. Egan seconded the motion. All ayes.**

A.Sirowich exited the meeting at 7:55 PM.

**GRANTS**

1. The Board of Selectmen is encouraging Parks & Recreation to seek out grants moving forward. J. Rodorigo would like to pursue Katharine Matthies for Matthies Park this spring and a CT Community Foundation grant for programming.
2. The final reporting for Katharine Matthies Foundation still needs to be completed.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

No bills at this time.

**BUDGET**

1. J. Rodorigo reviewed the budget with the commissioners and explained the new electronic format for the budget, which includes detailed descriptions and a review of wording for specific line items.
2. J. Rodorigo spoke with the Director of Public Works regarding the line items which are under the town crew's jurisdiction: Grounds Maintenance, Building Maintenance, Tools & Equipment, Spray, Clay and Fertilizer, Matthies Parks, Settling Ponds, Vehicle Maintenance.

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All of these items are monies spent by the town crew for work and projects that they are completing. The Director of Public Works has toured the parks and seen the work which needs to be accomplished; such as the repair of the settling ponds and leaking roofs.

3. The budget includes: a \$20,000 Part Time Activities Director, \$3,000 Stock Fish, and \$8,000 for the Settling Ponds. The Independence Day celebration and the League subsidies remain in the budget.
4. Currently, under the current 2011-2012 budget, there is \$1,555 remaining to pay for the June concerts.
5. There is \$11,500 remaining under Recreational Programming for several reasons: the Haunted Hayride did not take place this year, Park Pals is no longer planning events, and the pay-for-participation programming is doing very well. Parks & Recreation runs a lot of programs; including karate, Zumba, and all of the after school programming which are pay for participation and do not come out of the town budget.
6. There are other events and programs which the commission can look into, such as swimming lessons, a 3 on 3 basketball clinic, etc. however the problem is manpower, and volunteers are needed to schedule, plan, and coordinate all of these program ideas.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**B.Egan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM. S. Osowiecki seconded the motion. All ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Erin A. Schwarz  
Clerk, Parks & Recreation Commission