

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
DECEMBER 17, 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 7:02 PM.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: J. Rodorigo, S. Ruhl, S. Osowiecki, B. Egan, D. Sorrentino, and A. Sirowich (7:06 PM)

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Josh Carey from Connecticut Community Foundation

MINUTES

D. Sorrentino made a motion to approve the November, 2012 meeting minutes, as posted. B. Egan seconded the motion. All ayes.

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

Last month, B. Egan was nominated as Vice-Chair of the Parks & Recreation Commission. There were no other nominations. B. Egan was unanimously elected as Vice Chair. All ayes.

Last month, J. Rodorigo was nominated as Chairman of the Commission. There were no other nominations. J. Rodorigo was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Commission. All ayes.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Josh Carey, from Connecticut Community Foundation presented the commission with an overview and breakdown of the grants which have been awarded to Beacon Falls by the Foundation. He noted that several of the funds are scholarship funds whose recipients must meet specific qualifications. There are also grants and event sponsorships available. Several grants have been awarded to Region 16.

This fall, the Foundation saw record numbers of program grant requests and they were not able to approve the Park & Recreation Commission's request to continue the Eli Whitney after school programs. The Connecticut Community Foundation is interested in expanding their programs to reach more people and they are open to issues on many levels, such as senior needs, international travel, etc. The Foundation has a database for searching grant opportunities, and their applications are accepted twice a year in February and October.

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S. Ruhl asked what programs they are trending to support and Josh mentioned a large fund geared at seniors, which has been supporting seniors in specific ways, from nutrition to avoiding isolation. They also strongly support youth and education.

Josh encouraged the commission to continue to apply for programs which they would like to see come to Beacon Falls and explained that the Foundation is willing to work with our volunteers and employees are available to answer questions or discuss options with the commission anytime. Josh exited the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

A. MATTHIES PARK

General winter maintenance is happening at Matthies, now that the storm clean up and tree work from Sandy has been completed.

B. PENT ROAD

1. General winter maintenance is taking place.
2. The toddler playground is being installed and the invoice has been forwarded to the Katharine Matthies Foundation, so the grant funds can be received.

C. RIVERBEND PARK

No update.

D. SPORTS LEAGUES

The Basketball League is up and running, however the schools were closed this past weekend, so no games took place. The schools will be open on the 22nd and 23rd for games and then closed again on the 29th and 30th.

E. PARK ACTIVITIES

1. A. Sirowich noted that the after school programs are finishing up before winter break with the Middle School Bakery Class.
2. "Find Your Guru" has contacted the Commission via Facebook with a request to teach yoga classes on Sunday mornings. We need to find a space to accommodate her and get in contact with her for more details.
3. B. Egan has begun booking summer concerts and he has 4 concerts booked this June.
4. J. Roderigo has been contacted by someone who runs a tennis program for Bethany/Orange all year-round for ages 5-10 and up. In the winter months, he teaches racket-handling in a gym and then during the spring and summer he runs classes and camps. Camps can include 15 students each day for 2 weeks and the commission can help to set the pricing.

CORRESPONDENCE

The commission received a Christmas card from Little River Power.

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NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

APPLICATIONS

No applications at this time.

GRANTS

For the spring, the commission should look at applying to Connecticut Community Foundation in February, 2013 and Katharine Matthies Foundation in May.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

No bills at this time.

BUDGET

- A. B. Egan asked J. Rodorigo to confirm the budget for Stock Fish is at \$2,500 for the fishing derby. The fish need to be ordered in January.
- B. The commission needs to compose a list of capital equipment/capital improvements as part of the budget process.
- C. The Board of Selectmen hope to put together a budget which represents a 0% mil increase and this could mean reductions to several line items. J. Rodorigo would like 2 members of the commission to help with the budget process and begin these discussions next month.

OTHER BUSINESS

The commission needs to approve a 2013 calendar at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

B. Egan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM. D. Sorrentino seconded the motion. All ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin A. Schwarz
Clerk, Parks & Recreation Commission