

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MONTHLY MEETING  
JANUARY 22, 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 7:08 PM.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: J. Rodorigo, B. Egan, S. Osowiecki, D. Sorrentino, and A. Sirowich

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: S. Ruhl

OTHERS PRESENT: Mark Pizzi, Mike Krenesky

**MINUTES**

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

**CALENDAR**

**A. Sirowich made a motion to approve the 2013 Parks & Recreation Meeting Calendar. S. Osowiecki seconded the motion. All ayes.**

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

1. Mark Pizzi of Mark Pizzi's Advantage Tennis introduced himself to the board, provided some information on his background and the tennis programs which he has been running in neighboring towns such as Bethany and North Branford. His programs are tennis lessons for all ages at an affordable rate. He typically runs a 6 week Spring session for Juniors ranging in age from 5-16 with 1 hour lessons. He also runs week-long camps during the summer for 2 ½ hours a day for 5 days. Mark is willing to teach Adult Clinics as well, typically on weekends. He has even been able to run tennis programs for the youngest players indoors in school gymnasiums throughout the winter. The commission asked questions about logistics, equipment, and staffing and would like to pursue a Spring session to gauge the interest of the community. If the Spring session is successful, summer programs can be arranged. Mark also proposed a Free Tennis Clinic "Meet the Pro" with 2 hours of open tennis, as a promotion for his program. D. Sorrentino also asked if the summer tennis could be an extension of the Summer Recreation Program. The board was in favor of moving forward and trying to set up lessons this spring.
2. Mike Krenesky noted that he had been working with EDC and looking for a community organization to sponsor a Cardboard Boat Race. He asked the commission's thoughts on a location for the race. J. Rodorigo responded that if the race to be held at Matthies Park, they would need to complete Facilities Application and would have the commission's support. The commission is not responsible for Tobey's Pond as an alternate site. The event is in the preliminary stages, and a date has not been set, but the Commission was supportive of the project. J. Rodorigo stated the more events held in Beacon Falls, the better.

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**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. MATTHIES PARK**

1. Nothing happening at Matthies Park now. Dogwood trees, which were donated by Marcucio Gardens in Derby, have been planted by the entrance.
2. D. Sorrentino asked the commission to provide a letter to Inland Wetlands describing the damage which occurred at Matthies due to Hurricane Sandy.

**B. PENT ROAD**

1. J. Roderigo has met with Atlas Fence, received quotations, and signed a contract for the completion of the netting between Fields #1 & #2. This is the final phase of this project. Atlas hopes to have the work completed before Opening Day.
2. The new toddler playground has been installed. There was one damaged piece of equipment, which was sent back to the company to be replaced, but other than that, the project is complete and the grant monies have been received.

**C. RIVERBEND PARK**

No update.

**D. SPORTS LEAGUES**

1. Field Use applications will be coming in soon for spring.
2. Baseball signups are taking place starting at the end of January and early February. J. Roderigo will provide sign up dates for softball.
3. Construction renovations taking place at Laurel Ledge will prevent the RACBL from using the Laurel Ledge fields for practice this spring. Pent Road fields will be more crowded as a result.

**E. PARK ACTIVITIES**

1. B. Egan has booked 4 summer concerts to date: June 29 – Bristol Fiddlers, July 20 – Angelo, July 27 – Rich Bobinski Orchestra, and August 3 – Common Folk
2. Currently, the Salmon class is the only after school program going on and A. Sirowich is working on winter offerings. All after school classes will be taking part in safety drills, which are part of Region 16's new security measures.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Sophie Zyla sent the commission an update on her thesis amphibian and bird studies at Matthies Park. She included a Bird Checklist and Amphibian/Reptile brochure which can be made public. When she completes the project she will be presenting the results to the Commission, which could be an interesting public presentation. She was requesting permission to continue the studies and explained the nature of her research.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. J. Roderigo is getting a new cell phone number. The town is still debating the best solution for getting a Parks & Recreation line, so that Joe's cell phone is not the main

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number used. Parks & Recreation will either have their own line at town hall with a voicemail that you call into or a cell phone line.

- B. J. Rodorigo is seeking competitive quotes on the fireworks show at this time. Blue Sky Entertainment and Pyro Effects are two companies providing quotes. D. Sorrentino asked if the commissioners could obtain tickets to view the opening shows of these companies for comparison.

**APPLICATIONS**

No applications at this time. The 2013 Facilities application will be posted on the website.

**GRANTS**

- 1. Connecticut Community Foundation has a program grant application due February 1, 2013. The commission is considering applying for partial funding of the tennis program through this grant.
- 2. Katharine Matthies Foundation check was received for the toddler playground project which is now complete. The next round of applications for Katharine Matthies is May 1, 2013.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

No bills at this time.

**BUDGET**

- A. J. Rodorigo distributed the proposed 2013-2014 budget to the members for review, along with the current 2012-2013 with expenditures to date. The current budget is on track with many expenses for Grounds Maintenance, Clay, etc. coming up in the spring.
- B. For the 2013-2014 budget year, the commission has made cuts to the budget bringing the total budget from \$149,300 to \$137,700. The cuts are in the following areas: Building Maintenance, because of recent work which has been accomplished to buildings, Grounds Maintenance has been trimmed by \$2,000 and Sports Subsidies have been reduced from \$3,000 to \$1,000 as the Baseball/Softball Leagues are self-sufficient. \$1,000 Subsidy should be used to provide financial support for families of players who would have difficulty paying for the sport. There is a \$500 increase under Wages – Seasonal for the Summer Camp Director and Assistant Director.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

- 1. J. Rodorigo noted that the commission needs to make it known to the community that if a family wishes to play a recreational sport in town and they are financially challenged, the Parks & Recreation Commission (and in many cases, the leagues themselves) will support the player, so they can participate. No potential player should be turned away due to financial need.
- 2. There is still a vacancy on the board which needs to be filled, preferably by someone who is interested in programming and events.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**B. Egan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM. S. Osowiecki seconded the motion. All ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Erin A. Schwarz  
Clerk, Parks & Recreation Commission