

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
JULY 15, 2013**

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

CALL TO ORDER

J. Rodorigo called the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Beacon Falls Park and Recreation Commission to order at 7:00 PM.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: J. Rodorigo, B. Egan, D. Sorrentino, J. DeGennaro

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: A. Sirowich, S. Ruhl

OTHERS PRESENT: None.

MINUTES

B. Egan made a motion to approve the June, 2013 meeting minutes, as presented. D. Sorrentino seconded the motion. All ayes.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No public present.

OLD BUSINESS

A. MATTHIES PARK

1. J. Rodorigo has been working with Connecticut Pond Services and two treatments to the pond will take place in August and September to address undergrowth and the surface of the pond. The DEEP permit is in place.
2. The Eagle Scout project at Matthies Park for Donald Ferretti from Troop 104 is almost complete. The roof needs to be shingled. Parks & Recreation would like to hold a commissioning ceremony in the fall sometime, possibly after Donald is awarded his Eagle.

B. PENT ROAD

There has been a lot of summer activity down at Pent Road with post-season play and rentals of the ball fields. Fields are being well maintained.

C. RIVERBEND PARK

No change in the status of this grant. It has been approved and we are still on the top of the list for disbursements. We are still awaiting the funds.

D. SPORTS LEAGUES

1. The Commission has received an application from Prospect Soccer for use of the fields, beginning in September.
2. The Woodland Jr. Hawks will also requesting practice time at Pent Road and their application is forthcoming.

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E. PARK ACTIVITIES

1. D. Sorrentino and J. Rodorigo noted that the first time Cardboard Boat Regatta went well and received good press. Spectators who witnessed the event are interested in entering next year. The Canoe/Kayak Day saw about 130 people using boats to go out on the pond and a steady flow of traffic for the kayak company, CT Outdoors.
2. B. Egan noted that the following concerts will take place over the next 5 Saturdays: July 20 – Angelo, July 27 – Rich Bobinski Orchestra, and August 3 – Common Folk, August 10 – Route 691 and August 17 – Kerry Boys.
3. J. DeGennaro noted that swimming lessons went well last week and people are asking for more. She is looking into a session for some time in August.
4. J. Rodorigo stated that the fireworks went off safely and securely with a good crowd at Pent Road. There are 4 companies certified in the State of Connecticut to launch fireworks and over the past several years, Beacon Falls has worked with 3 of the 4 companies. It seems as though the price of fireworks continues to increase while the length of the shows gets shorter. This year's fireworks were closer to 15 minutes, rather than the 20-22 minute shows which we have requested in the past. J. Rodorigo asked the board to consider this for the future. He also asked the board to consider whether the town should continue to host the event on the Saturday after July 4th. This tradition began because the town receives a discounted price after July 4th. D. Sorrentino suggested putting the show out to bid for 20-22 minutes to all of the licensed companies.
5. The Summer Recreation Camp has 105 children signed up and therefore extra staff was needed. J. Rodorigo has received very positive feedback on the camp thus far.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. D. Sorrentino is looking for suggestions from the Board for posting on the Naugatuck River Commission event calendar. The website covers events up and down the Naugatuck River Greenway and D. Sorrentino plans to add Beacon Falls to this calendar.
- B. J. Rodorigo has been in touch with a marketing representative from Bridgeport's Harboryard and there are several events taking place there during the fall and winter months, which could be Parks & Recreation events. The Commission could purchase discounted group tickets and promote the event. Examples of upcoming events: UCONN basketball games, Ringling Bros. Dragon Circus, Cirque de Solei. Flyers for most of these upcoming events were sent by email to all the commissioners for their thoughts and review.

APPLICATIONS

Several applications have come in and have been approved. A church group has requested the Pent Road pavilion on August 4th. Top Dog Baseball Camp will be at Pent Road from 8/12

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through 8/16 and from 8/19 through 8/23 for a morning camp. There was another request for the Matthies pavilion and there were no conflicts.

All applications will be reviewed and approved, based on availability. There were no objections from the board.

GRANTS

We are still awaiting word on the Katharine Matthies Grant application for a \$20,000 pavilion for Pent Road to be located near Field #1 and the playground area.

PAYMENT OF BILLS & BUDGET

J. Rodorigo is working with the Finance Department on closing the books for the 2012-2013 fiscal year and getting final bills paid.

OTHER BUSINESS

- A. S. Osowiecki's term on the board ended July 1, 2013 and the Commission will need a replacement who is interested in planning programming. Thanks to Stan for his many years of service.
- B. With all of the inquiries and activities that Parks & Recreation is involved with, the Commission discussed two items which would make the process run smoother.
 - 1. The first is a phone line is needed at Town Hall where Parks & Recreation calls can be directed. The commissioners would be able to access this voicemail box remotely using a code and they would check messages daily, rather than receiving calls on their private cell phones.
 - 2. The second item discussed was a Parks & Recreation website which can be developed by a local person. Currently our program information is buried on the Town Website under Boards & Commissions. Parks & Recreation has no physical location at the Town Hall, not even a bulletin board for postings. A Parks & Recreation website would work the same way the current Library website works. **D. Sorrentino made a motion to pursue a Parks & Recreation website. J. Rodorigo seconded the motion. All ayes.**

ADJOURNMENT

D.Sorrentino made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 PM. B. Egan seconded the motion. All ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin A. Schwarz
Clerk, Parks & Recreation Commission