

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MONTHLY MEETING
DECEMBER 16, 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 7:02 PM.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: J. Rodorigo, B. Egan, J. DeGennaro, S. Ruhl

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: A. Sirowich

OTHERS PRESENT: Beth Bucciferro from Brighten Your View, Derek Palange from RACBL

MINUTES

B. Egan made a motion to approve the November, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. S. Ruhl seconded the motion. All ayes.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

J. Rodorigo made a motion to elect Steve Ruhl to serve as Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission, for a one year term beginning in December, 2013. B. Egan seconded the motion. All ayes.

S. Ruhl made a motion to nominate Bob Egan to continue his term as Vice-Chair. J. DeGennaro seconded the motion. All ayes.

These terms will run until December, 2014.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Derek Palange from RACBL raised some concerns to the board about the scheduling issues with Fall Ball and asked for some clarifications about the spring, 2014. J. Rodorigo noted that because RACBL fielded 4 teams for the fall rather than 2, there were some conflicts with the field use. He noted that Prospect Soccer will not be using Pent Road in the spring. During the fall, Prospect Soccer applies to use the fields for four Saturdays in September and October. Their application came in during the summer, while RACBL was behind on their paperwork. D. Palange agreed that fall sign-ups need to take place earlier so the league can plan the schedule.

Regarding scheduling for the spring, the application for field use should be in by the March, 2014 meeting date. Field #1 will be closed until Opening Day, which is typically the 2nd or 3rd Saturday in April, as the weather allows, so practices cannot take place on that field until after the season starts. We do not know yet whether Laurel Ledge will be available for practice in the spring. If not, then J. Rodorigo recommended that RACBL talk with the President of Beacon Falls Softball League to see about availability of Field #3 for practice. Field #5 is used by

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Woodland High School and JV teams in the spring and by college teams on Saturdays during the fall only.

Looking forward, J. Rodorigo noted that Field #3 and #4 are due to be redone next October, so they will be closed down in October, 2014. D. Palange explained that the league may be changing the cut-off birthdates for players based on Little League rule changes which will affect All Stars and when kids will age out of the program.

Beth Bucciferro from Brighten Your View showed the Commission the developmental website and asked for input on content and layout. She brought up several points such as; would the members like alias email accounts, what would the Board choose as the domain name for the site and how do we establish the PayPal account through the town. Content is needed to fill out the site and any upcoming programs need to be added. J. Rodorigo set the January meeting as the goal for the roll out of the site.

OLD BUSINESS

A. MATTHIES PARK

No news at Matthies. S. Ruhl is still working on the historic piece with the State of CT.

B. PENT ROAD

Locks have been changed by the Sugar Shak and the new locks have a punch code which can be changed regularly. This will save money on keys and improve access issues.

C. RIVERBEND PARK

1. The grant is finally moving forward and J. Rodorigo needs to submit the preliminary plan in order to get the first disbursement of funds.
2. Anyone interested in helping put together the preliminary plan can join J. Rodorigo and Rich Minnick from the Conservation Commission. Parks & Recreation is the liaison with the town for implementing these grant funds, working with Conservation Commission.
3. Modification of the grant will include work at Volunteer & Veterans Park and possibly an extension of the Greenway by the river from South Main Street to Riverbend.
4. S. Ruhl asked about the original plan and it includes preservation of the Housatonic by eliminating invasive species, a walkway around the park, trash receptacles, seating, and a J hook in the river for fishermen, exposing the river's edge, also to improve fishing.

D. SPORTS LEAGUES

1. Basketball Leagues are up and running including younger travel teams and they are also fund raising for their teams.
2. J. Rodorigo noted that he directs inquiries to the League President as they are the ones responsible for the day to day operations of the league.

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E. PARK ACTIVITIES

1. After school programs are running: Salmon, Drawing, Spanish and Bakery classes.
2. J. DeGennaro has no new activities planned yet, but she has been in touch with Harboryard.
3. J. Rodorigo asked about the availability of the pool for Winter Family Swim.
4. J. Rodorigo noted that if a staff person is needed to be present for programs to escort children, sign out children, life guard, register people, then there are some funds available for this purpose. It helps to take some of the responsibility from the volunteers, since the town does not have paid Parks & Recreation personnel.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **B. Egan made a motion to approve the 2014 Meeting Calendar. J. DeGennaro seconded the motion. All ayes.**
- B. At Monday night's Board of Selectmen meeting, the Board approved the appointment of 2 new committee members: Mary Ellen Fernandez and Marian Zollo. No one on the Commission had prior knowledge of the appointments. The Board welcomes the new members and anticipates they be sworn in and present for the January, 2014 meeting.

APPLICATIONS

There are currently no applications which require approval. The Application for Field Use needs to be revised for 2014 with changes to the fee schedule for renting the fields and for tournaments. The deadline for spring applications will be March 15, 2014.

GRANTS

J. Rodorigo continues to meet with Gordon Grant, the contractor who will be working on the Pent Road pavilion. He has been in touch with Katharine Matthies regarding the deadlines for the grant and anticipates receiving the preliminary outlay of funds in January, 2014.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

J. Rodorigo made a motion to pay the bills from the clerk, Erin Schwarz. B. Egan seconded the motion. All ayes.

BUDGET

- A. J. Rodorigo noted a preliminary budget will be available for review at the January, 2014 meeting. Departments have been asked to cut their budgets by 5-10% for the upcoming fiscal year. He noted that Parks & Recreation's budget was cut by 5% for the current fiscal year.

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- B. J. Roderigo has met with Rob Pruzinsky several times to discuss the line items which are his responsibility as Foreman: Tools & Equipment, Maintenance, Clay & Fertilizer, Utilities, etc. Rob should be signing off on these expenses on the future.
- C. Finally, note that the Family Day Fireworks Show has become shorter running about 14 minutes last year. If funds need to be cut, this line item is one to be considered.

OTHER BUSINESS

None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

B. Egan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 PM. J. Roderigo seconded the motion. All ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin A. Schwarz
Clerk, Parks & Recreation Commission