

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
APRIL 21, 2014**

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

CALL TO ORDER

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

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: J. DeGennaro, B. Egan, S. Ruhl, M-E Fernandes, D. Palange

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: A. Sirowich, M. Zollo

OTHERS PRESENT: Beth Bucciferro from Brighten Your View

MINUTES

B. Egan made a motion to approve the March, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes, as presented. D. Palange seconded the motion. All ayes.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Beth Bucciferro of Brighten Your View asked if the PayPal account has been activated yet. S. Ruhl replied that he thought that Denise from the Finance office had established the account and he will put Beth in touch with Denise.

OLD BUSINESS

A. MATTHIES PARK

1. Family Fishing Class coming up this Wednesday night at the Senior Center with a fishing field trip next Sunday at Matthies.
2. S. Ruhl has received a couple of applications to use the Matthies pavilion this season. There is a fee of \$50.00 to reserve the pavilion at Matthies for a party.
3. Cardboard Boat Race is scheduled for July 12th. S. Ruhl would like to advertise the event to the kids at Woodland and perhaps the different classes would like to compete to see who can make a better boat. S. Ruhl is interested in contacting people at the High School through advisory. There is no fee for the race which would keep it open to all and parents would need to sign a consent form. 2 people man each boat.
4. The Canoe/Kayak Event will also take place on the same day.

B. PENT ROAD

1. Family Day Fireworks are set for dusk on July 12th.
2. Baseball and Softball Leagues are underway and Opening Day was successful.
3. Field #1 renovations looks good and people are happy with it.
4. D. Palange noted that the league has been trying to get coaches/players to stop hitting/throwing into the fences, as it bows the fences out. He is looking into padding on fences and nets were put up to prevent people from hitting the fences. There was

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an issue with how the nets can be clipped using carabiners and these clips are now missing.

5. Softball had their first game there Friday night and it went well.

C. RIVERBEND PARK

No updates to Riverbend Park. Fisherman looking for access to the river should be directed to use Volunteer Park, behind the Firehouse for now.

D. SPORTS LEAGUES

E. PARK ACTIVITIES

1. B. Egan reported the Annual Fishing Rodeo with St. Michael's Men's Club is scheduled for Saturday, April 26th from 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM. The Men's Club will provide prizes and refreshments.
2. Summer Concerts have all been booked and they will start on Saturday, June 14th.
3. J. DeGennaro reported that the Disney Junior Show going on this Sunday with 20 people attending.
4. She had to cancel the American Red Cross Babysitting Class due to lack of participation.
5. J. DeGennaro is moving forward with Swim Lessons for the summer and she has an instructor and life guards lined up. She is hoping to put on lessons during the first week of July and will check on the summer program dates for another possible week.
6. Summer Recreation Program will be July 7th through August 8th.
7. J. DeGennaro is also planning to book tennis lessons this summer with Mark Pizzi.
8. She is also planning a Volleyball camp during last week of August.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Work on Field #1 is complete and the field is being used.
- B. The new pavilion at Pent Road is taking a little longer to complete than hoped. It will be completed soon, as people are inquiring on what is going on there.
- C. D. Palange asked if the lights on Field #1 were out as a result of the digging. There were not working during a recent game, when the umpire asked for the lights.
- D. The Fire Department Softball team is now playing softball on Field #2 after hours and Field #4 must be clear of kids and adults when they are playing.
- E. S. Ruhl noted there was an issue with an adult soccer league which jumped on the fields between Field #3 and #4 on Saturday morning. They did not have the proper paperwork and tailgated in the parking lot afterwards with alcohol, which is another violation. Contact the police if this happens again. They bent the goals and a Major team needed them to move off the field. We have been advised to call the police if this happens again.
- F. M.E. Fernandes asked if there is a sign on the field stating that permits are needed. This is something to consider for the future. Permits are technically needed for the basketball and tennis courts also.

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CORRESPONDENCE - None at this time.

APPLICATIONS

No recent applications. RACBL, Softball, Fire Department Softball team and several applications for the Matthies Park pavilion have been received. 5th Grade Field Day will also take place at Pent Road on June 5th (rain date: June 6th).

GRANTS

The commission discussed ideas for upgrades to the parks which could be funded through a Matthies grant, due May 1st. With Toby's Pond closed, the commission has directed people to Matthies for a place to fish and walk. M.E. Fernandes noted that the signs stating that the bridges at Matthies are for pedestrian traffic only are not up anymore. There is also a tree over the first bridge, need to be addressed.

The Commissioners discussed requesting material on the ground to walk on for nicer walking trails. They discussed asking the Boy Scouts to label the paths at Matthies for trails. S. Ruhl noted that he would like to see the swing sets and seesaw at the park replaced, signs in the park, and perhaps new trails cut.

Final reporting for last Matthies grant is also due now.

PAYMENT OF BILLS - None at this time.

BUDGET

B. Egan asked for about the Parks & Recreation budget as it currently stands, which will be presented to the public. S. Ruhl noted that several line items are no longer decided by the commission; such as maintenance line items and Senior Center programming. The Fireworks are a line item which may not be in the budget for next year. The town has been receiving a shorter show for more money, so we need to determine if it is worth it and consider partnering with another town, such as Seymour, Oxford, Bethany on fireworks.

OTHER BUSINESS - None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

B. Egan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM. D. Palange seconded the motion. All ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin A. Schwarz
Clerk, Parks & Recreation Commission