

**BEACON FALLS PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MONTHLY MEETING
JANUARY 17, 2017**

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

CALL TO ORDER

B. Egan called the Special Monthly Meeting of the Beacon Falls Parks and Recreation Commission to order at 7:01 PM and then led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: D. Ferretti, B. Egan, M.E. Fernandes, A. Sirowich, D. Taylor

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: S. Ruhl, D. Brooks

OTHERS PRESENT: D. Palange and R. Desrochers of RACBL

MINUTES

- A. Sirowich made a motion to approve the December, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented. D. Taylor seconded the motion. All ayes.**

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

D. Palange spoke as President of the Robert A. Cole Baseball League noting that signups are currently taking place. The league is looking into funding dugouts for Field #4. This field needs fencing and shading where the players sit and this is the next project for the league. He will be in touch with Public Works staff at the parks.

B.Egan saw that the food licensing permit came in for the Sugar Shak and D. Palange noted that last year's arrangement with the Sugar Shak worked out well. The RACBL changed their policy to encourage volunteering in the Sugar Shak. They plan to charge an additional \$25.00 fee to parents who do not work in the Sugar Shack. Those families who do not work in the Shak are also not eligible for tournaments or All Stars. Families are required to work one 2 hour shift per child.

Registration costs are discounted for families registering more than one child. April 22nd is the RACBL's Opening Day. D. Palange's main concern is the edging on Field #1. The field needs to be cut properly and edged to prevent flooding when the sprinklers go on.

D. Palange is looking into a Babe Ruth team, which would be chartered out of Naugatuck with play taking place in Naugatuck. D. Palange noted that Softball will be getting started with their signs ups shortly.

OLD BUSINESS

A. MATTHIES PARK

1. B. Egan noted that the Public Works Department recently had equipment stolen from the garage at Matthies Park. The locks on the doors were cut and a wood chipper and some lawn mowers were taken, in a theft which took some planning.

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2. The Town is looking at security at the park for the future and investigating the theft.

B. PENT ROAD

B. Egan noted that Pent Road is currently quiet, and we have just heard from the Baseball league about their timing for field use in the spring. He will discuss their concerns with Public Works.

C. RIVERBEND PARK

Riverbend Park is almost complete and will have a formal opening in April.

D. SPORTS LEAGUES

1. Basketball League is up and running. Officers of the league have approached B. Egan about ways to help fund their insurance expense which was over \$800. Basketball has the expense of equipment/uniforms/referees and also fees to Region 16 for use of their facilities on the weekend. The insurance was an unexpected expense this year.
2. The subsidy of the league is currently at \$1,000 and the subsidy can be reviewed during budget season. B. Egan plans to speak to members of the league on this issue.

E. PARK ACTIVITIES

1. Zumba for Kids will run a 5 week session starting at the end of January.
2. A. Sirowich is looking into a self-defense class called Jane Doe No More to be held one day at Woodland Regional High School in one 3-4 hour session. The class would need to be advertised community wide.
3. S. Ruhl would like the commission's opinion on holding the Play-Well Technologies Lego camp again this summer. B. Egan noted that he would encourage the camp if a location can be established early. Dates need to be set soon.
4. B. Egan has begun booking summer concerts starting June 3rd.
5. B. Egan will confirm the date of the Annual Fishing Derby. The Men's Club will make sure not to conflict with Opening Day.
6. The library is holding a Family Fishing Class sponsored by the State of Connecticut DEEP to coincide with opening day of fishing season. Parks & Recreation can co-sponsor and fund a giveaway item for the class, such as a lure. D. Ferretti noted that he can teach how to make cork lures.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. The town's insurance company, CIRMA reviewed the 2017 Facility Use Application and made some grammar changes to the Hold Harmless agreement. The commissions reviewed the final version of the application. **D. Ferretti made a motion to approve the Application. D. Taylor seconded the motion. All ayes.**
- B. M.E. Fernandes asked about the restriction for motorized vehicles in the application and this line has been removed from the application.
- C. Beth Bucciferro of Brighten Your View sent a notice about the www.bfpr.org website renewing this month. After discussion the commissioners agreed that we wish to keep the website active and Beth volunteered to help with updates. D. Ferretti has a web expert who

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can look into putting a tool on the site for help with updates. **M.E. Fernandes made a motion to keep the www.bfpr.org website active, ask Beth to do the updates, while D. Ferretti explores ways to improve on the site moving forward. A. Sirowich seconded the motion. All ayes.**

- D. A. Sirowich made a motion to fund up to \$100.00 for the annual charge for renewal of the domain name. www.bfpr.org. D. Taylor seconded the motion. All ayes.**
- E. The Beacon Falls Library had a very successful Youth Theatre presentation with about 250 people in attendance. Commissioner D. Taylor and M.E. Fernandes were in attendance and they said it was well done and the students did well, but it was very difficult to hear. The library thanked Parks & Recreation and hopes for future collaboration on other Youth Theatre productions.
- F. The Library is also starting an after school Chess Club for 16 students in grade 3-5 from 3:30 – 5:00 starting in February. They have asked for assistance in purchasing chess sets. **D. Ferretti made a motion to approve \$75.00 from Recreation Programs and Activities for the purchase of chess sets for the library’s after school Chess Club. D. Taylor seconded the motion. All ayes.**

CORRESPONDENCE

The commission received a flyer for the Beacon Falls Library fundraiser which is an Italian Comedy Wedding to be held at the Firehouse on April 1st.

APPLICATIONS

The Susie Foundation sent in an application without insurance requesting dates in September for their annual kickball tournament. B. Egan will ask them to fill out the 2017 application and they will need to obtain insurance this year, possibly under the CIRMA Tenant Application.

The leagues should be sending in applications for spring field usage prior to March 15th.

GRANTS

- A. D. Brooks sent her preliminary application for a CT Community Foundation Event grant for the Holistic Wellness event in June, to the commission by email. The commissioners reviewed the application as a positive start and B. Egan asked them to direct any questions they have on the application to D. Brooks, so that she can move forward with the February 1st submission of the grant.
- B. There is a tentative budget for the Holistic Wellness event in the application and the grant would help to fund this budget. Any monies collected from the event would go through Special Activities bank account and funds for the event could come from the Recreational Programs line and also from the Special Activities account.
- C. The Katharine Matthias grant deadline approaches in May and the commission needs to finalize their idea for the grant application in the next month or so.

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PAYMENT OF BILLS

None at this time.

BUDGET

Budget discussions will begin in the New Year. The commission would like to explore the costs of taking down the upper pavilion at Pent Road, as a capital budget item.

OTHER BUSINESS

As a potential grant application, A. Sirowich noted that she holds a lot of water days at Summer Recreation camp under sprinklers. The sprinkler heads can easily be damaged by the campers and she would like to look into a Splash Pad at Pent Road. There are 1 or 2 areas where a splash pad would not interfere with the septic system.

Many parks in the area are installing small splash pads. She would look into specifications and engineering requirements. They are a great cooling station for the summer. Many things would need to be worked out: maintenance, hours of operation and issues with vandalism that we have had at Pent Road, but A. Sirowich will look into the idea further.

ADJOURNMENT

M.E. Fernandes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 PM. D. Ferretti seconded the motion. All ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin A. Schwarz
Clerk, Parks & Recreation Commission