

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF BROOKFIELD, HELD AT THE TOWN HALL ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2014, AT 7:45 P.M.

Present: Sara Kincade, Chairman; Bryan Chnowski, Joei Grudzinski, Rob Blick, Tony Tomaino, Mike Fernand. Dennis DiPinto, Director; Elaine Rajcula, Secretary.
Absent: Ed Butt

Minutes of the Previous Meeting were accepted as presented upon a motion made by R. Blick, seconded by B. Chnowski, and passed.

Public Comments – None.

Presentations/Correspondence – None.

Recreation Supervisor's Report – Mary Knox - The Annual Afternoon of Ice Skating at the Danbury Ice Arena was held on Sunday, March 2nd with 250 people in attendance. The Youth Basketball League for Grades 1-12 all finished up for the season in mid-March with 382 children participating these 10 week programs. She gives special thanks to Fern Smenyak, Steve Kolitz, Jason Mawell and Desirae Smyser. Also a huge thanks to all the volunteer coaches. The Friday Night Ski Trips to Mohawk had ended for the season on March 7th. Once again the program was a huge success, with 140 students Grades 5 - 12 attending. She gives thanks to the supervisors Claude Wallace, Scott Zucca and Nicole Perrone as well as the volunteer parent chaperones. The Spring/Summer program guide is online at (www.brookfieldct.gov/rec) and is now being printed. It should be mailed to the residents on Thursday, April 3. M. Knox needs help at the 18th Annual Egg Hunt scheduled for Saturday, April 12th. It will take place at the Town Hall with money collected in the Lobby and the hunts in the field in back of Town Hall. Volunteers are needed from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for setup, collecting the money and spreading candy and eggs on the field. Call D. DiPinto or M. Knox if you can volunteer.

Parks Supervisor's Report – Chris Rabuse –The Grounds Department is presently doing general cleanup, moving BBA port-o-johns, pruning lake side of Park. Also working on installation of the High School bleacher anti-skid plates which are half completed, as it requires drilling and hand riveting each piece. Completed maintenance of break room/locker room repaint and repairs; equipment/plow and sander repairs as needed; Also, starting the break down of some winter equipment for summer storage, which includes power washing/steam cleaning/oil and spark plug changes as needed. Completing stadium and backfield audits where there are seam issues due to weather complications and start of spring sports. Still snowplowing and removal on both synthetic fields. He found out that the lighter snow can be plowed safely. He commends the crew leader Chris Shaw, whom in a conversation with, suggested an idea to make the Toolcat plow safe for field use. The idea worked really well. The reason this was done was due to sports practice crush, and extended bad weather. He hopes they will not have to do this multiple times, but showed it could be a safe option. He has an idea for heavier snow amounts using their Toolcat snow

blower. He is looking for a junk snow mobile which he would secure the skis from it to the snow blower idea.

The basic premise is to keep any type of sharp cutting edge off the turf surface and be able to move forward smoothly. Other projects include preparing the High School baseball/softball fields; H.S. Tennis net installation and seam repairs; and haul woodchips for various trail areas.

Future Work includes water turned on at Cadigan and Town Hall; baseball and softball field set-up, mound grooming at High School and all Town fields; playground inspections and audits; spring cleanup at schools, town buildings; irrigation system startup and repairs; install Town Hall, Huckleberry and High School irrigation pumps; complete anti-skid strips on High School bleachers; move soccer goals on Town fields to desired locations; setup and paint all soccer fields and make and install sand bags for each goal. Paint all baseball/softball foul lines and out of play lines; paint discus/javelin/throwing vector at High School. Also paint foul lines and out of play lines on all baseball and softball fields, which requires weekly painting. D. DiPinto stated there will be a lacrosse tournament at the High School next week.

Monthly Financial Report – D. DiPinto – In the Fall Recreation 75% was spent. The Park side was 75% also. Otherwise, everything is starting next week. Registration is also starting next week.

Subcommittee Reports/Commission Responsibilities

Current Project Updates – D. DiPinto stated these are listed on the front page of the website: The Still River Greenway and Parks Revitalization Program.

Commission Policies – The Commission and Director reviewed said Policies and made minor revisions. After much discussion, a motion was made by R. Blick, seconded by T. Tomaino to approve the Commission Policies with revisions. Passed. Policies to be removed from the April Agenda.

Old Business

Still River Greenway Update - D. DiPinto has met with the Board of Selectmen for a discussion on the Greenway, which he thought went well. The Commission agreed to meet to form a committee. Time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 pm before the next Regular Meeting on April 23rd.

Self Sustaining Fund Balance – D. DiPinto has met with the Board of Selectman for discussion of the Fund Balance. The Board of Finance will have a meeting to discuss and determine how the fund balance will be spent. Bill Tinsley, First Selectman, suggested \$21,000. for upgrading both the High School gyms. Discussed by the Commission were

using \$28,000. (a quote received) for ½ court and 2 full courts at Cadigan. D. DiPinto also thought \$38,000. to be used for playground elements for both the Beach and Cadigan.

Communications/Community Outreach/Advocacy – The Parks & Recreation website will be updated next week with the upcoming programs for Summer and Fall.

Budget Update – None.

New Business

Spring/Fall Impacts for Parks & Recreation Revitalization - Cadigan Park will not open as it will become a construction area.

Adjournment – A motion was made by J. Grudzinski to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm. Seconded by T. Tomaino. Passed.

The next meeting of the P & R Commission will be on Wednesday, April 23, 2014, at 7:30 pm.

There will be a special meeting on that date before the Regular Meeting. It will begin at 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. to discuss Greenway committees.

Please notify the office at 203-775-7321 if you cannot make one or the other meeting or both.