

TOWN OF DEERFIELD
Parks & Recreation Commission
November 18, 2014
MINUTES

Call to Order

6:00pm: Chairman Shute called the meeting to order

Present: Jeff Shute, Chairman; Amy Harrington, Jack Hutchinson, Brian Layton and Ernie Robert Members

Excused: Julie DeCosta, Ken Heckman, and Melissa Robinson Members

Also Present: Joe Manzi, Parks & Recreation Director

Minutes of October 2014

Motion: J. Hutchinson moves the minutes as written

Second: A. Harrington

Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Citizens Comments None

Tailgate Trick or Treat

The Tailgate Trick or Treat held on Sunday, October 26th was reviewed. There were an estimated 400 cars that attended and overall the event went great. Suggestions for improvement in 2015 were to designate a specific parking area for those wanting to participate in the best tailgate competition, to paint lines ahead of time for the vehicles to park to, to park cars from the back of rows forward for improved safety, to close the gates to new cars at 1:00p and to better communicate the “No Dog” policy, or that dogs must remain in the vehicles.

Thank You & Acknowledgements – Old Home Day

J. Manzi apologized that Dwight Barnes was not mentioned in the previous Acknowledgements from Old Home Day. The Barnes family donates many items for the BBQ and the Commission extends its gratitude.

Field Updates

J. Manzi updated that both Bicentennial and Hartford Brook have been treated with fertilizer and lime and have been put to bed for the Winter. The Department has worked to overall the equipment shed. Everything has been put away, organized and stocked for next year. There will be a final inventory done next week. Parks & Recreation was able to purchase several piece of baseball equipment on sale at the end of the Season so they will be in good shape at the start of next year. Chairman Shute asked whether another soil test would be done in the spring, or if a full year should pass between testing. J. Manzi will review the recommendations from the UNH report to see whether it includes recommended course of treatment for spring and fall.

GBW Grounds Plans & Proposals

Painting has been done at the Parks & Recreation indoor area of the GBW Building, the carpet purchase and installation is expected to begin next week and work on the Bathrooms will commence after January 1st. The plan is for the \$7,000 carpeting bill to be split 50/50 between the Parks & Recreation Revolving Fund and the GBW Building Budget. At the exterior, Joe has purchased and installed some yellow plastic fence topping and plans to get more in the coming weeks. The current outdoor equipment at GBW is in serious need of replacing for various safety reasons. Joe will finalize his proposal for ordering from Play World Systems for the next meeting. There are several price discounts that will expire at the end of the year that he wants to take advantage of. The cost of new equipment is expected to be between \$7,000 and \$9,000, the area will need to be mulched as well. The three driving goals for the After School and Summer Programs are to invest in safety, fun and employee retention. Currently the Revolving Fund has 2014 revenues of \$230, 800 with expenses at \$201,000. The addition of approximately \$29,000 from 2014 will bring the overall fund balance to around \$64,000.

Other Business

J. Hutchinson asked whether the Commission might consider changing the standing meeting date as the second Tuesday of the month conflicts with the Fair Association meetings of which he and Chairman Shute are new members. It was proposed that the meeting move to the first Tuesday of each month, beginning in December.

Motion: J. Hutchinson moves to change the Parks & Recreation monthly meeting date to the first Tuesday of each month, beginning December 2nd at 6p

Second: E. Robert

Vote: Yea 5, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

J. Hutchinson also updated the Commission that the 250th Anniversary Committee is working to roll out a t shirt sale this week and has received an amazing response from the community so far. The vendor can offer shipping at no cost if they utilize a central distribution location and he asked whether Parks & Recreation may be able to provide that service. J. Manzi confirmed that would be fine. Additionally, J. Hutchinson spoke that he feels it would be good for the Commission to begin committing to aspects of the 250th celebration that it will lead, for example the road race or parade. J. Manzi suggested that Parks & Recreation will start to communicate that for 2016 there will not be a traditional Old Home Day. J. Hutchinson will distribute a preliminary list of events and activities that the 250th Committee has created for the Commission to review. The official date of the celebration will be July 15th and 16th, 2016.

B. Layton suggested that the Committee look into re-opening one of the original Deerfield ski hills. He believes there was once a tow rope on the old Maynard's Hill and that it could easily be brought back to life. In other winter activities, he asked how the Commission might work to bring ice skating at Veasey or Freeses pond. Chairman Shute will speak with Peter Menard from the School Board about parking access for Freeses Pond and the item will be placed on the agenda for further discussion at the next meeting. All agreed it will be important to find volunteers willing to commit to the maintenance of the rink.

J. Manzi asked whether the Commission felt there would be a need to post Hartford Brook for "No Recreational Vehicles" in the winter months, specifically concerning snowmobiles on the field. Members didn't feel it would be a problem if the ground was frozen but agreed 4 Wheeler access in the spring would be detrimental and should be monitored.

Adjournment

Motion: J. Hutchinson moves to adjourn the meeting of November 2014

Second: E. Robert

All in Favor – Motion Carries – Meeting Adjourns at 7:05p

Next Meeting Tuesday, December 2nd @ 6:00pm

*The Minutes were Transcribed and Respectfully Submitted by Katherine A. Libby, Recording Secretary.
Pending Approval by the Parks & Recreation Commission*