

TOWN OF DEERFIELD
Parks & Recreation Commission
April 4, 2017
MINUTES

Call to Order

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

Present: Jeff Shute, Chairman; Julie DeCosta, Ken Heckman and Melissa Robertson Members

Excused: Amy Harrington, Jack Hutchinson, Brian Layton and Ernie Roberts Members

Also Present: Joe Manzi, Parks & Recreation Director

Minutes of March 2017

Motion: M. Robertson moves the minutes as written

Second: J. DeCosta

Vote to approve: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

Citizens Comments

None

Hoops Classic Recap

The 2017 Deerfield Hoops Classic has concluded, the final games were moved from Saturday to Sunday due to the snow storm, but otherwise the tournament ran as expected. J. Manzi spoke that participation was top notch and that the 8th grade class was pleased with the way concessions ran. He thanked everyone for their help. K. Heckman echoed the positive feedback received on the tournament.

Staffing Updates

Assistant Director Radatz has left the Department. J. Manzi spoke highly of Darrin and the way that he gave 100% through his last day of employment. Response to the posting has been strong, J. Manzi hopes to fill the position by the end of April start of May, to date approximately six applications have been received. Members of the Commission will be asked to participate in the selection process when the second round of interviews arrives.

Ball Field Updates

Chris Colbath has provided cost estimates for irrigation installs at Hartford Brook (\$1,700) and Bicentennial (\$3,820). J. Manzi would look to the Commission to make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen to move forward with Mr. Colbath as quoted. Chairman Shute spoke that the Board may ask the Commission to collect competitive pricing and noted that it would be good to have a printed plan specifying the configuration planned at Bicentennial.

Motion: K. Heckman moves to recommend that Parks and Recreation move forward with the irrigation systems as proposed by Chris Colbath, contingent upon the receipt of plans

Second: J. DeCosta

Vote to approve: Yea 4, Nay 0, Abstained 0 – Motion Carries

LWCF Grant & Hartford Brook Update

Last week the Department learned that more materials were needed to satisfy the Fish & Game, those have been submitted and will require some minor adjustments to the planned location of the dugouts in relation to the wetlands. J. Manzi thanked Penny Touchette and Rick Pelletier for their assistance in gathering the necessary information. Next steps will be to plan and design for the construction of the dugouts, J. Manzi has not yet met with J. Hutchinson to plan the configuration of the kitchen. Chairman Shute has secured a donated freezer chest for use in the concession building.

Other Projects

J. Manzi has received quotes on adding more mulch chips at the gazebo and George B. White playgrounds and the possible addition of another swing set at the George B. White playground. It is estimated 100 yards of chips will be needed at the gazebo and approximately 50 yards at the GBW. Ultiplay has been asked to price out the swing set cost with and without installation. J. DeCosta asked about the property out behind the tennis courts and might the Department be able to expand outdoor use in that direction in the future? J. Manzi was not sure, but will look into it further.

Joe Stone Scholarship

J. Manzi has received one application directly, it was passed along to the Commission for review. The deadline for submissions is April 21st. K. Heckman will share the Scholarship details to the Concord Crew FaceBook page.

Other Items

J. Manzi reported that the baseball and softball registrations are complete, there will be a meeting to finalize coaches and teams this week. The registrations with the 11 and 12 year olds are down this year, there will not be enough players to form Deerfield's own Majors nor AAA Team. The plan at this point is to join forces with Candia. Of the thirteen AAA players on the team last year, ten will not be returning. All of the reasons for departure seemed to be due to competing activities, namely year round soccer, lacrosse and basketball programs. Softball registration is down a bit as well, some of those athletes have opted to join the Girls on the Run and other year round programs instead.

Old Home Day is fast approaching, the Commission agreed to set August 19th at the date. J. Manzi will request use of the Fairgrounds for fireworks and approach the Fair Association and former 250th Committee regarding sponsorship of the display.

Chairman Shute asked that the Town Website be updated to reflect the correct status and terms of the members on the Commission. J. Manzi will get the information from Kevin Barry and see that it is updated.

Red Sox ticket sales are going well, the trip will be May 14th.

K. Heckman asked how online registration was working. J. Manzi responded that it's going very well. The Summer Camp registration is live. There has been some learning curve as users need to first pay the Annual Registration fee to enroll and then go in and pay for each week of attendance. Some families were surprised that the online system requires full payment at the time of enrollment, whereas previously payments could be spread out in weekly installments, but the Parks and Recreation Department is doing its best to work with each family. If the weekly slots fill up, the staff will do its best to accommodate. Overall the RecDesk system has made a tremendous difference in the foot traffic coming into the Office.

Adjournment

Motion: K. Heckman moves to adjourn the meeting of April 2017

Second: M. Robertson

All in Favor – Motion Carries – Meeting Adjourned at 6:35p

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

The Minutes were Transcribed and Respectfully Submitted by Katherine A. Libby, Recording Secretary.

Pending Approval by the Parks & Recreation Commission