

# Ballpark Commission Meeting Minutes

8/28/14 at The Ballpark Clubhouse

## Attendees:

**Commissioners and staff:** Jerry Plante, Chair, Guy Fontaine Vice Chair, Jerome Begert, Vic Gould, Bob Rings, Rod Choroszy, Jim Doran, Field Manager

**Visitors:** Mark Gagne, has an interest in The Ballpark.

**Jerry Plante started the meeting at 6:33pm.**

## Agenda Items with Actions

**Discussion with Possible Action Request by Mark Knowles for wavier of fees for use of facility.** **Jerome Begert made a motion to deny fee waiver.** Vic Gould seconded this motion. Vote in favor of the motion was 6-0. Essence of the rationale for this vote was that other AAU ball teams have been able to raise funds for their needs and our ballpark cannot afford to lose money on baseball games. Consideration for a discount is possible.

**Discussion with possible action Request from Edna Woods for Michael J. Fox Bike Ride 2015.** Edna Woods wants to reserve **September 12, 2015 for the Michael J. Fox Bike Ride.** Motion to support this request was made by Jerome Begert and seconded by Vic Gould. Vote in favor of the motion was 6-0.

**Discussion with possible action 2015 Baseball Contract.** This was in reference to Collegiate Baseball Club, LLC and John and Pam Gallo's request to have a contract in hand to present to potential buyers. There was considerable discussion. Bottom line is that no one had seen the first draft of this contract prior to this meeting and the decision was **to defer any further discussion until the Commission and Larry Mead, Town Manager, had time to review the draft.** The Commission would accept it as is or make modifications before anything would be presented to the Gallos for negotiation.

**Discussion with action to accept the Ballpark's Vision and Mission Statement.** The **proposed** Vision and Mission statement for The Ballpark moving forward was **accepted by a vote of 5-0.** Bob Rings abstained. The two statements were discussed during the previous meeting. During this meeting's discussion, it was agreed that these statements can be amended in the future.

**Discussion with possible action regarding financial tracking.** Bob Rings has pursued ways of efficiently tracking various levels of Ballpark financial accounts. Bob was able to recruit a retired CPA who has already used Quicken Pro to develop customized spreadsheets offered as examples for accomplishing task specifications requested by Rings. **The motion was to approve his role of working with Diana Asanza, Town Financial Director, and Guy Fontaine to create the Ballpark's own tracking system.** After a brief discussion Jerome Begert motioned that original approval motion be tabled until unanswered questions could be clarified. His motion passed 5-0. Rings abstained.

All original documents are kept by Diana. The Ballpark's financial actuals must be reconciled with Diana's actuals. Diana's actuals remain the official actuals that are presented to the Town Manager and Councilors.
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**Discussion with action on the purchase of a lawn mower for the Ballpark's field.** A document with the proposed lawn mower was provided for the Commissioners. Guy said it would be stored in The Ballpark's building that the Police have been using, but will be vacating later this fall. **Guy recommended buying the Cub Cadet RTZ L54. A motion was made and passed to have guy put in a PO request and purchase the mower and bagger for a total sum of \$3349.98**

## **Ballpark Commission Meeting Minutes 8/28/14**

**Discussion with possible action request by OOB365 for us of facility for a Halloween event.** Israel Collins representing OOB365 requested the use of the Ballpark grounds for it proposed Field of Screams “Carnevil of Souls.” Details of this proposed event were not available but the objective for this meeting was to obtain the use of The Ballpark’s grounds for October 17-19 and 22-31. **The Commission agreed to lease The Ballpark grounds (not the stadium or ball field\*) to OOB365 on condition that the follow-up discussions or negotiations of the details and fee are acceptable . Commissioner’s Reports**

### **Guy Fontaine, Operations Manager**

The **Mixed Martial Arts event earned The Ballpark about \$4,000** (from \$2,000 concessions profits, plus \$1,000 from the fee guarantee, plus \$1,000 donation from George Kerr, owner of the Surf Six restaurant). Guy acknowledged that Marty Adams (co-producer) provided the fine white sand topping to dress up the concourse area.

The **Blues Festival will have an assembled stage approximately “24’x 38’ with a roof of about 30’ x 38” which must be anchored** in the soil to avoid wind issues. Guy will be looking into leasing a **generator to supply the added power** for the electrical requirements of the musicians and stage equipment.

Guy requested the **assistance of his fellow Commissioners to work in the concession stand** for the Red Sox Alumni-Firefighters charity game August 31.

Diana Asanza has approved the use of the **square on smartphones that allows VISA and MasterCard** transactions for the concessions stands.

### **Bob Rings**

Bob distributed the **patron survey results for the MMA event**. There were 16 questionnaire respondents.

Rings revisited prior Commission discussions regarding rewarding volunteers for their efforts. George Solomon provided hundreds of hours of field maintenance in support of Jim Doran. Betty Ann Robidoux assisted Vic Gould in keeping the restrooms very clean throughout the Raging Tide season and in preparation of the MMA. The result of the discussion is the following:

- **Guy Fontaine will prepare a plaque with these two names on it. The plaque will be kept in the clubhouse conference room or maybe in an outside visible place** to start a practice of placing top volunteer names year by year on this plaque.
- In addition **George and Betty Ann will receive \$100 gift cards that can be used anywhere.**
- Guy will create a certificate of appreciation. He intends to have a nice folder with pockets in which the certificate of appreciation and the gift card will be placed.
- This year as last year, the **Town and Ballpark will have a joint appreciation cook out** for their staffs and people receiving awards. **Solomon and Robidoux will be given the awards folder during the recognition segment of the cook out.**

### **Vic Gould**

Vic asked on the status of upgrading the lights over 3<sup>rd</sup> base side. **Guy said he was going to contact Tom Campbell Electric about estimates for the 3<sup>rd</sup> base lighting issue as well as for improving the lighting of all eight poles.**

He also noted that Betty Robidoux suggested that we have **shower curtains for all working showers** in the clubhouse except those in the locker rooms. Guy and the Commission agreed. **Guy authorized Vic to buy the curtains,** and Vic would be reimbursed.

## **Ballpark Commission Meeting Minutes 8/28/14**

Vic suggested that The Ballpark **needs better signs for the men's and women's restrooms**. During this discussion **The Commission agreed** that the men's and women's restrooms signs should be upgraded aesthetically and that the large sign over both restrooms be replaced with a new sign that says "Restrooms" rather than Toilets, the current identification.

### **Jerry Plante**

Jerry showed the Commission the **sign that he has had created to put up around roads leading to The Ballpark** to guide visitors to The Ballpark.

### **Rod Choroszy**

Rod is going to **ask the Athletic Directors of Southern and Central Maine's Community Colleges if they would like to sponsor the return of the Small College National Championship Tournaments May 2015 and/or 2016.**

### **New Business**

During a July meeting Guy announced that **he was going to resign** from working at The Ballpark September. After further consideration he **offered two alternatives beyond the resignation:**

1. He could remain on the Commission and cut back significantly on the time he spends making sure that everything is working from facilities equipment to event coordination. Or
2. He could be paid a modest amount to cover the time that he has spent with all the details that his role as a volunteer Operations Manager entails. He suggested \$10,000 which would cover the many outside requests for electrical work in support of people he knows.

The **Commission unhesitatingly agreed to option 2** in due respect for his institutional knowledge of the facility's infrastructure and his versatility as an electrician, plumber, carpenter as well as his initiative to do what it takes to address other types of issues – also in all due respect for all the work he has done in planning and coordinating events and the website.

In full appreciation what the job entails, the Commission offered and agreed by consensus on having a \$12,000 stipend for this position starting as soon as possible corresponding to Town Human Resources hiring practices. Bob Rings is to work with Guy in creating a Job Description for Tammy Lambert, Town's Human Resources Director. **Accordingly Tammy must advertise this job to the public and qualified applicants will be chosen for interviews.**

Bob Rings motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Rod Choroszy seconded the motion. The vote of 6-0 was in favor of this motion. Meeting was adjourned at 9:40pm.