

RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
May 15, 2008

Attending: C. Deming, B. Parker, V. Parkus, M. Roberts, E. Smith, T. Quinn

Brad Parker called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The Commissioners reviewed the minutes from the March 20th meeting. MR. SMITH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MS. ROBERTS AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Quinn distributed copies of the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Parker noted that slightly over 75% of the budget had been expended. Ms. Quinn advised that she plans to purchase new picnic tables for the beach if there are any excess funds remaining in the budget.

MR. PARKUS MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE TREASURER'S REPORT. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MS. DEMING AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Guest and Audience

There were no guests or audience in attendance.

Correspondence

Ms. Quinn reported that she had written a letter to the United Way advising that the Parks and Recreation Commission is aware of and supports the Youth and Family Services programs. She noted that the purpose of the letter was for documentation for a United Way grant that Youth and Family Services had applied for.

Committee Reports

Ms. Quinn stated that she is unsure as to the status of the Town's budget. She advised that there was an article in the newspaper stating that First Selectmen Walter had encouraged citizens to vote "No" on the proposed budget question at the May 22nd referendum.

Director's Report

Ms. Quinn provided the following Director's Report:

- Although the Recreation Commission's Open House was sparsely attended, the participants agreed to try it again next year in hopes of building attendance.
- No questions about the Park and Rec budget were raised at the Town meeting.
- Day Camp registration is going well and she had not received any complaints about the increased fees.
- Plans for the Swing Bridge Arts Festival and the Music on the River events are going well.
- Parks and Rec will participate in the Youth and Family Scavenger Hunt the weekend of May 17th & 18th.
- She plans to participate in a mock DUI accident at the High School on May 22nd. The event is being sponsored by LPC.

- At the end of the summer her office will be relocated to the old Middle School. This will allow the Town to contain the cost of insurance for the building since it much more costly to insure a vacant building.
- Elementary School Camp Directors will not provide after care this year. Since it is not the responsibility of the After Care director to clean up from the day camp or make arrangements for campers that are not enrolled in After Care and are not picked up on time, she provided the regular Directors with written guidelines of what will be expected of them. Ms. Quinn noted that the regular Directors are salaried positions and those responsibilities are part of their employment contract.
- Ms. Quinn recommended adopting Mr. Gowac’s suggestion concerning camp fees for campers whose parents are working at the camp.
- She would like to have one or two more lifeguards for the beach and noted that Mya is coming back to help with swimming lessons. Mya is certified as an instructor but not as a lifeguard, however, she had a good deal of experience and Ms. Quinn suggested using her as a “beach employee”.

Ms. Quinn encouraged the Commissioners to support the budget at the May 22nd referendum. In response to a question from Mr. Parker, Ms. Quinn stated that she has been attending the LPL meetings and is willing to continue to represent Parks and Rec at those meetings.

Old Business

A. Dog Park

Ms. Quinn reported that the Dog Park supporters will march in the Town’s Memorial Day parade wearing tee-shirts that read, “Lose the Leash”.

B. Local Prevention Council (LPC)

Ms. Quinn stated that she had spoken with several Middle School students who suggested building the skateboard park at the old Middle School.

C. Bike Race

Ms. Quinn advised that she has not heard anything further on the bike race and feels the event may be off the table for this summer.

D. Swing Bridge Arts Festival

Ms. Quinn reported that the Festival is scheduled for September 20th and the Planning Committee expects to have the website up by May 19th or 20th. She stated that applications, postcards, and posters have been printed and letters announcing the event were mailed to the Village businesses. A business Q&A meeting is scheduled for July 8th. She also noted that the committee is trying to coordinate a vendor reception for the Friday night before the event.

E. Music on the River

Ms. Roberts reported that all of the bands for the Music on the River event have been booked. She noted that some parents have requested that one night be reserved for local youth bands or for a kid’s open mike night. The Planning Committee feels there is not enough time to coordinate it this year but will consider it for next year. In response to a question raised by Mr. Parker, Ms. Quinn confirmed that the events will be held on Monday evenings.

Ms. Roberts stated that a Town-wide mailing announcing the music schedule will go out at the beginning of June.

F. Park and Rec Open House

This agenda item was discussed under Director's Report.

New Business

A. Track Program

Ms. Quinn advised that Selectman Govert had suggested organizing a track program at a recent LPC meeting. She noted that she offered to run the program through Parks and Rec but she hasn't heard anything further.

B. Other

Ms. Quinn reported that she had offered to transport several young actors from the Norma Terris Theatre to the Colchester skateboard park, but was advised that there is not enough time in their schedules.

She also noted that she plans to take down the volleyball net at Nichols Field and bring over some of the old picnic tables from the beach to put in the old court area. There was a general discussion regarding the condition of the playground equipment at Nichols Field. Ms. Quinn noted that Consumers Union has offered to pay for upgrades to the playing fields and so she plans on using the money allocated for that purpose to make improvements to the playground equipment. Mr. Parkus noted the equipment is 15-20 years old and suggested using Capital Improvements funds to purchase replacement equipment.

Adjournment

There being no additional business to discuss MR. SMITH MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. PARKUS AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon R. Wheeler
Recording Secretary