

RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
April 21, 2011

Attending: K. Conway, C. Deming; J. Gowac; B. Parker; V. Parkus; T. Quinn; M. Roberts; E. Smith

Brad Parker called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The Commissioners reviewed the minutes from the January 20, 2011 meeting. MR. GOWAC MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 20, 2011 MEETING AS WRITTEN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. PARKUS AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Gowac advised that there were some corrections that needed to be made to the budget and he would like to defer the Treasurer's Report until after they are completed. The Commissioners agreed with Mr. Gowac's recommendation.

Guest and Audience

There were no guests or audience in attendance.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence to discuss.

Committee Reports

A. Music on the River

Ms. Quinn advised that committee had finalized its selections and distributed copies of 6-year historical spreadsheet. She noted that she projected a minimum amount of donations would be collected at each event this year which allows the program to break-even; however, she was confident that they would collect significantly more than she projected. She also distributed a copy of the pre-event donation form and advised that it would be inserted in the next issue of the Events magazine instead of being mailed separately to households, which would reduce the postage expense.

B. Basketball

Ms. Quinn asked to meet with the Basketball Committee after the meeting to go over some recommendations.

Director's Report

Ms. Quinn reported on the following:

- The Local Prevention Council is looking for opportunities to involve the high-school students in the Town's activities and she suggested creating a Junior Parks and Rec Commission and/or a Junior Music On The River Committee. Ms. Quinn noted that there is a \$500 United Way Grant that she can apply for to cover any expenses that would come from organizing and managing the Junior Committees.

Mr. Parker suggested that a Junior Parks and Rec Commission would have the opportunity to involve the members in a number of Parks and Rec Commission programs, including Music On The River. The Commissioners supported Ms. Quinn's suggestion to set up a Junior Parks and Rec Commission and Mr. Conway volunteered to assist her with the project.

MS. DEMING MADE A MOTION TO SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JUNIOR PARKS AND RECREATION. MR. CONWAY SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Parkus suggested setting aside one Music On The River date for the local high school students to perform and Ms. Quinn noted that there is already an event scheduled for them to perform at the Town Beach on June 4th.

- Ms. Quinn and the Commissioners discussed ways to discourage kids from hanging out at the Seven-Eleven in Moodus. Ms. Quinn noted that drugs are being sold around the outside picnic tables and she'd like to do something to prevent those activities. There was a general discussion about ways to deter kids from loitering at the gas-mart.

Old Business

A. Town Beach Repairs

Ms. Quinn reported that T.J. McGuire is doing the work on the restrooms at the Town Beach. She stated that in addition to the plumbing work, the walls and floor tile will be torn out and replaced. She advised that the work should be completed in time for the teen music festival on June 4th. There was a general discussion about the best way to repair the walls and Ms. Quinn agreed to bring some of the Commissioners' suggestions to the attention of the contractor.

B. Dog Park

Ms. Quinn reported that Planning and Zoning had approved the plans for a dog park at the ball field at the Town Beach. She is in the process of getting quotes for additional fencing and Mr. Parkus recommended she contact Atlas for a quote. She advised that news of the planned dog park has gotten mixed reviews from local citizens.

C. Tennis Courts

Ms. Quinn stated that she is getting quotes to repair the fence at the tennis courts from the same companies that are quoting on the dog park fence. She advised that she is also having the net-posts repaired and will replace the nets.

D. Heritage Park

Ms. Quinn advised that a pavilion has been built at the park. She did not think; however, that any work has been done on the walking paths.

E. Playground at Nichols Field

Ms. Quinn advised that the grand opening of the new playground is scheduled for May 21th. She stated that the High School Sociology Class will be involved in planning the event and she will forward details to the Commissioners.

New Business

A. Skateboard Park

Ms. Quinn reported that she is working with Youth & Family Services to move the plans for the skateboard park forward. She stated she had met with First Selectman Walter and Mr. Ventres to identify locations for the park. She advised that they had considered Nichols Field, the field next to the Senior Center and the old Middle School and they feel that next to the tennis courts at the old Middle School was the best location. She requested the Commissioners send the Board of Selectmen a letter of support for the project.

The Commissioners discussed the pros and cons of each location.

MS. DEMING MADE A MOTION TO SEND A LETTER TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN SUPPORTING THE CONCEPT OF A SKATEBOARD PARK AND RECOMMENDING THE FIELD NEXT TO THE SENIOR CENTER AS THEIR FIRST PREFERENCE FOR THE LOCATION OF THE PARK AND THE OLD MIDDLE SCHOOL AS THEIR SECOND CHOICE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MS. ROBERTS AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Day Camp

Ms. Quinn reported that she had received over sixty applications for day camp counselors; however, due to low registrations last year and a slow start this year, only hired 10 counselors have been hired; another 10 were put on a waiting list. She stated the Camp Administrator made the hiring selections.

C. Youth Music Festival

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting and is reported on above in the minutes. Ms. Quinn noted that the event is a joint venture with Youth and Family Services.

Mr. Parkus repeated his suggestion to set-aside one Music On the River date for the local youth to perform.

D. Monthly Newsletter

Ms. Quinn advised that she had sent the 1st installment of the Parks & Recreation Monthly Newsletter out to over 800 residents. She noted that it had been well-received and that she got a number of requests from people who wanted to be added to the mailing list.

E. Teen Travel Camp

Ms. Quinn stated that she is organizing a joint Teen Travel Camp with the Haddam-Killingworth and Portland Parks & Rec Departments and that events have been scheduled at the following locations: Winding Trails in Farmington, the Portland Quarry, a trip to Lake Compounce, and Ocean Beach. She advised that the program could accommodate 10-15 9th and 10th graders from each town.

F. Senior Project

Ms. Quinn advised that she worked with Pat Mielt And Zack Lefemina on their Senior Project to create a Parks & Rec program for special ed students. She noted that there were a number of challenges to getting the program together but, in the end, it was a very successful and rewarding project.

G. Building Use Forms

Ms. Quinn reported that a few groups had signed up for gym space as a Park & Rec program without giving her prior notification. She stated that she is concerned that if groups do not notify her, she is not able to brief them on the proper Park & Rec guidelines that they must follow for their sports events. She noted that she has spoken with the involved parties and that the issue has been resolved.

H. Youth Advisory Committee

Ms. Quinn reported that she organized a meeting of the directors of all of the Town's youth sports teams and that there was a good exchange of information among the groups. She stated that the group would like to add a "Youth Sports" tab to the Town website where contact information and links to all of their organizations can be added. They also plan to use the on-line community calendar to list their games and events. She noted that the group will probably continue to meet quarterly.

I. Town Ordinance Updates

Ms. Quinn advised that the Town Clerk is in the process of updating many of the Town Ordinances and that she is helping with the ordinances that relate to Parks & Rec. The Commissioners provided suggestions for changes to several of the ordinances.

Other

Ms. Quinn advised that Selectmen Govert's Music Circle received national attention when it was reported on in Making Music Magazine

Ms. Quinn stated that Rosemarie Evans has asked to fund-raise for the High School trip at the Music On The River events. The Commissioners discussed Ms. Evans request and agreed that it is not their policy to give permission to any requests to fund-raise at the Music On The River events.

Adjournment

There being no additional business to discuss, MR. GOWAC MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MS. DEMING AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon R. Wheeler
Recording Secretary