

## PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 22, 2014

3:30 p.m.

Unity Park Field House

56 1<sup>st</sup> Street

Turners Falls, MA 01376

**Present:** Dennis Grader, Chairperson, Linda Ackerman, Vice Chairperson, Barbara Kuklweicz, Jon Dobosz, Director of Parks & Recreation, Jennifer Peterson, Clerk/Bookkeeper.

### **Meeting Being Taped**

#### **Agenda:**

**1. Meeting Called to Order:** 3:32 p.m.

**2. Approval of November 21, 2013 Minutes:** Barbara Kuklweicz makes the motion of accepting minutes.

**Vote: 3-0**

**Approval of December 17, 2013 Minutes:** Linda Ackerman makes the motion of accepting minutes.

**Vote: 3-0**

**3. 2015 Operating & Capital Budgets**

Jon informed the commission the budgets were submitted to the town. This information will be available on the town's web site in the near future. Linda Ackerman asked for clarification on a few items. One item being some dates were mentioned while others were not, she questioned if all items needed to be dated. In the future Jon said he'd be more specific with dates.

**4. Fieldhouse Restrooms, January 30, 2014 Special Town Meeting Article**

This item was placed on the Special Town Meeting warrant; originally it was on our FY 2015 budget. It was moved forward because of the department's interest in expanding hours. This would accommodate the water features later hours, adult softball league, and the overall general increase in popularity of the park. The summer is our busiest season and having restrooms updated sooner rather than later would benefit our community. The Finance Committee however does not want to move up the renovation date. The commission discussed different options for the bathrooms such as outside access, and Jon stated that he rather not see this happen because of the high risk of vandalism. The girl's bathroom doors need widening to become handicap accessible and the two stalls reduced to just one. Jon does feel that both boys and girls restrooms need to be completely redone.

**5. Unity Park Improvement Project, Phase II – Additional Items**

The physical plan and the intended schedule of the volleyball court and the new structure were given to the commission. There was some concern over First Street and the walking path in relationship to the volleyball court so the configuration of the volleyball court was changed. Jon believes the bids went out January 15, 2014 and out to BidDocs.com as well. The site briefing date is January 28, 2014.

**6. FY13 Departmental Financial Study**

The study is done annually. This year our revolving revenue is slightly higher than it has been in recent past. Linda questioned the absence of Hillside Plastics and Renaissance Builders, Jon said that he would add them to the study. There were no further questions.

**Motion:** Linda Ackerman makes a motion to accept the study with the changes as noted. Barbara Kuklweicz seconded the motion.

**Vote: 3-0**

**7. 2014 Sawmill River 10k**

Jon has preliminary numbers on the Sawmill River 10k; the department is waiting on an invoice from Taylor Rental. He estimates that the profit will be around \$1,700.00. There were 163 runners, slightly lower than our projection, and 3 less runners from last year. Fewer t-shirts were ordered this year, but gloves were an option for the runners. The t-shirts were available for the first 100 registrants. Jon liked how the t-shirts and gloves worked out; labeling fewer shirts is a huge time saver. Barbara and Linda shared the positive comments from the runners the day of the race. Linda commented on the items that we rented from Taylor Rental; could we possibly borrow a megaphone or a tent to bring our costs down. Jon said that he has tried to borrow a megaphone but unable to find one. Linda said may look into the bank possibly purchasing one for department as it would be very useful for the Soapbox Derby too. There were no further questions.

**8. Director's Report**

There were no questions on the report.

**9. Other Business**

The Playfull City designation application is due March 20, 2014. Jon is in communication with MCTV as the application requires a video that needs to be uploaded on to You Tube. He though they could record our winter programs in action. He will be sending letters home to the families involved to let them know about the video. Jon read the letter from the town regarding the campaign finance annual report. This was given to the commission to sign and confirm that no monies were given towards their campaigns.

**10. Adjournment: 4:27 p.m.**