

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, April 29, 2014  
4:10 p.m.  
Unity Park Field House  
56 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Turners Falls, MA 01376

**Present:** Dennis Grader, Chairperson, Linda Ackerman, Vice Chairperson, Jon Dobosz, Director of Parks & Recreation

**Meeting Being Taped**

**Agenda:**

**1. Meeting Called to Order:** 4:10 p.m.

**2. Approval of March 26, 2014 Minutes:** Linda Ackerman makes the motion of accepting minutes. Dennis Grader seconded the motion.

**Vote: 2-0**

**3. Unity Park Improvement Project Update 2.2**

The new climbing structure was installed this weekend but temporarily closed to repaint some minor scuffing of the material during unloading. The sand volleyball court is finished but will not open until mid-May when the grass has grown in. The volleyball poles will be set into place when the grass has grown. There is a construction meeting here tomorrow, they will determine then if the fields need additional seeding.

**4. Winter Programs 2014 – Profit/Loss Statements**

Jon informed the commission that this winter the basketball program had 5 teams; 3 & 4 grades had both a boys and girls team, and the 5 & 6 grades had two boys and one girls' team. The Sawmill Run and the Bluefish numbers were also included. There was some discussion on the cost of the gloves and the t-shirts for the Sawmill Run. The gloves were expensive but Jon felt they worked out well as runners liked them. Bluefish had approximately 55 swimmers, and received a third place trophy from the mid-regionals. The Open Swim numbers seem to be falling; we were down around 30 people from last year and around 70 people from the year before that. There was talk about the cold winter and possibly cooler water temperatures being possible reasons for the low numbers.

**Motion:** Linda Ackerman makes a motion to accept the Profit/Loss Statements for the winter programs. Dennis Grader seconded the motion.

**Vote: 2-0**

**5. Annual Town Meeting**

At the Annual Town meeting Jon will be speaking on behalf of the Skatepark Article as well as Brian Dolan and Walter Ramsey. The park is estimated to cost \$400,000 with the town's responsibility being 68% or \$128,000. The Skatepark Committee has done really well with raising funds and they feel strongly that they will be able to get to \$28,000; leaving approximately \$100,000 left for the town's responsibility.

**6. 2015 Strategic Plan**

Jon thought publicly promoting the Strategic Plan and asking for community's input could be a possibility. He thought perhaps a survey asking the community for their thoughts and ideas. The commission agreed with the idea. Linda questioned if the possible summer intern may take on a marketing project for the department this summer as part of this plan.

**7. Community Garden**

The department did receive a request from the Community Garden coordinator for trellises. Jon could not remember if there was an issue with having them, but the group was hoping we could be more lenient because so many of them like to grow tomatoes. Linda spoke about her concern regarding trellises being that they can look messy if not taken care of properly.

**Motion:** Linda Ackerman makes a motion to allow trellises, but understand that if something starts to get out of control we will contact the coordinator of the community garden. Dennis Grader seconded the motion.

**Vote: 2-0**

**8. Teen Violence Awareness Event**

Jon met with a friend of Eric Zieba, who is interested in having a teen violence awareness event as the ten year anniversary of his death is this August. She visions something that would bring kids out to the park. She'd like a DJ, volleyball, and also invite some of the other non-profit teen groups that are in our community. There are no details yet as this is in the discussion phase. Jon wanted to talk to the commission and he suggested that she talk with her friends about what they would like to see happen.

**Motion:** Linda Ackerman makes a motion to support the Teen Violence Awareness event. Dennis Grader seconded the motion.

**Vote: 2-0**

**9. Other Business.**

Jon met with Susan Lamonto from River Culture, in regards to coordinating the Block Party. They thought having some items down at the park (like a bounce house) would be nice. We would need a special rider from our insurance company for the bounce house.

Thursday, May 8 Jon will be at Gillette Stadium to attend a concussion forum.

Jon asked the commission if he could take Friday, May 16 off as a vacation day. The commission o.k.'s the vacation day.

Jennifer will also be out of the office for a week for medical reasons.

**10. Adjournment 4:35 p.m.**