

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

Friday, May 23, 2014

3:30 pm

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:** 3:35 pm
2. **Approval of May 23, 2014 Minutes:** Linda Ackerman makes the motion of accepting minutes; seconded by Dennis Grader.
3. **Recreation Commission Election**  
Jon congratulates Dennis on his re-election.  
**Motion:** Linda makes a motion to accept the re-election of Dennis Grader as Chairperson.  
**Vote: 2-0**
4. **Unity Park Improvement Project Update**  
Jon let the commission know that Taylor Davis, Phase II contractors, recommended that we wait two more weeks before opening up the volleyball court to the public to allow the grass to grow a little more. The ball fields were being mowed and the bare spots are starting to look better. Linda questioned if we knew why there were bare spots; Jon said that they had no reason other than the seed didn't take in some areas. Last Sunday Taylor Davis did re-seed and aerate the ball fields.
5. **Playful City Award**  
Montague has been officially designated a "Playful City USA." It was clearly demonstrated that our whole community can be seen as playful. We will continue to introduce new programs, and continue to make improvements to our playgrounds; like Rutter's Park and the Skatepark. Jon has just started looking into possible grants that we now can be eligible to receive. He is currently looking at a wood chip surfacing grant that we can apply to any area that may need replacing at our parks. The award will be a positive thing for our community. We will be getting our street signs designating us a Playful City USA soon, and Jon will be talking to Tom Bergeron about where best to place the signs.
6. **Skatepark Project Update**  
At the Annual Town Meeting the Skatepark article was approved unanimously. When completed the PARC grant will be submitted to Boston. Jon plans on hand delivering the grant the day before it is due. Jon and Walter Ramsey, the town planner, are currently working on the application. The Department of Conservation & Recreation will send someone for a site visit once the application is submitted. Linda questioned if there were

any fundraisers planned for the near future and Jon hadn't heard of any. The Skatepark Committee did ask if the fundraising "thermometer" could be placed at Unity Park and Jon agreed to their request.

**7. Rutter's Park Project**

Jon met with Walter Ramsey, and M. J. Adams who will be replacing Bruce Hunter at Franklin County Housing and Rehab. They spoke about placing Rutter's Park improvements into a larger community development block grant application. Some improvement considerations were to the private bell tower and possibly the Bridge of Names. We are still very early in this process, and Jon hopes to get on the agenda for the Lake Pleasant Village Association's June meeting to hear their ideas as well.

**8. MRPA Youth Sports Concussion Forum**

Jon attended the concussion forum held at Gillette Stadium. He felt the forum, sponsored by both the Brookline Parks & Recreation Department and Massachusetts Recreation Parks Association, was very informative. He learned that there are many parks and recreation departments that do not have concussion policies and he would like to have something very basic for our department. There are websites that offer free informal tests with certificates for coaches who are interested. Jon will be working on a policy with the coaches most likely this fall. Linda thought it would be a nice idea to invite Dr. Greenbauch to speak to our community in regard to concussions and head injuries.

**9. Summer Programs**

Jon included the Summer Brochure in the commission's packet. He informed them that the brochure was printed by the House of Corrections. He was very happy with the results and paid about a quarter of the price had he gone elsewhere. It cost \$275 for 600 copies. If we had a commercial copy place do the work it would have cost \$600 - \$700.

The Summer Bluefish have already started and have around 30 swimmers registered. The Summer Playground program is in the process of hiring counselors. We had about 6 counselors from last year not return and 16 applicants this year for those open spots.

Linda asked if the reading program could again be held at the park this summer on Thursday afternoon's and Jon let her know that it could.

Linda suggested that a thank you be written to the House of Corrections, letting them know how happy we were with their work on our brochure.

**10. Other Business**

Linda asked how the Diamond Dusters were doing this summer, and how the transition to the Greenfield Softball League was going. Jon hadn't heard anything negative and felt the transition went smoothly.

Jon let the commission know that he will be inviting Jared Allis, our summer intern, to our June meeting.

**11. Adjournment: 4:02 p.m.**