

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

March 24, 2015

3:30 p.m.

Unity Park Field House

56 1st Street

Turners Falls, MA 01376

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

Meeting Being Taped

Agenda:

1. Meeting Called to Order 3:35 p.m.

2. Approval of February 24, 2015 Minutes: Barbara Kuklweicz makes the motion of accepting minutes; seconded by Linda Ackerman.

3. Skate Park Project Update

Jon included in the commission's packet three design concepts put together by Pillar Designs, the original designers of the Skate Park. At our request they modified the design to cut back on costs. A conference call between Jon, Walter Ramsey, Town Planner, Peter Wells of Berkshire Design Group, Skate Park Committee members and a designer from Pillar Designs took place to discuss the new redesign. The design options eliminate the smaller bowl, but does provide more areas in the park for all levels of skaters, and reduces the cost of the project by \$25,000. Jon feels everything will be finalized with the design by next month. At that time we can put the project out to bid. Groundbreaking may begin in late August, early September. There are approximately 60 days of construction, which may be a challenge because it being later in the year, however it does give us enough time to finish the project by our deadline of June 1, 2016. The commission questioned if the cost of the fence is included in the grant. The fence is not included in the grant money, but will be paid for out of the Skate Park account, where all donations and grant monies have been deposited. Eagle Auto, our neighbor, has asked a fence be installed between his property and the Skate Park. Other wise, Jon is happy with the progression of the project.

4. Sway Fun Glider Project Update

On Sunday, May 3, site preparation will begin for this project. This will include excavation, and setting the concrete base for the unit. May 16 will be the actual installation of the glider. Jon anticipates the most difficult part of this will be getting the concrete handicap assessable ramp correct. It needs to be approximately 18 feet in length with a 1 inch per foot slope. We will have to rethink where this ramp will go because that would place the glider between the two trees. A meeting is being planned for next week to discuss this matter.

The commission received a Spring Project Calendar for April and May illustrating the various projects and events. It was discussed that the EGGstravaganze will activate its rain date of April 18. The fields are still covered in snow and ice and not ready to be used at this time. April 18 is also the Spring Parade beginning at 1:00 p.m., so the EGGstravaganza will begin at 11:00 a.m. at Unity Park. We will announce the date change and fliers will go out to the schools. Also on the calendar is the Montague Center play structure disassembly, which is scheduled for May 9, with a rain date of May 30.

5. Spring Programs

The spring edition of our Fun Times is ready to go. Tee Ball and Rookie League Baseball sign ups are slow. Jon suspects the Rookie League is being affected by the Newt Guilbault aggressively attracting children in this age group. We may begin to advertise our spring sports earlier next year. Nipper and Senior League softball, Tennis, Babysitting Course, Adult Softball and Adult Volleyball are the other programs this spring.

6. Fieldhouse Restroom Refurbishment Update

The Commission walked through the restrooms, which are around 90% complete. They were happy with the work.

7. Directors Report

There were no questions.

8. Other Business

Jon is still coordinating with the school regarding the afternoon program for the Summer Playground.

9. Adjournment: 4:01 p.m.