

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

November 16, 2015

3:30 p.m.

Unity Park Field House

56 1st Street

Turners Falls, MA 01376

Present: Dennis Grader, Chairperson, Linda Ackerman, Vice Chairperson, Jon Dobosz, Director of Parks & Recreation, Barbara Kuklewicz, Secretary, Jennifer Peterson clerk/bookkeeper

Guests: Barry Scott, Bryan Dolan, from Skate Park Committee and Riley Staiger

Meeting Being Taped

Agenda:

1. Meeting Called to Order 3:30 p.m.

2. Approval of October 26, 2015 Meeting Minutes: Linda Ackerman makes the motion of accepting minutes; seconded by Barbara Kuklewicz.

3. Skate Park Project Update

●BMX Bike Policy

Riley Staiger, local BMX biker, spoke about his bike and experiences with parks in and outside of western Massachusetts. His bike has plastic bar end caps, peddles, and pegs; which most riders his age seem to have as well. He went on to say that older riders tend not to use the plastic protective covers as it is something their generation did not have, and simply prefer metal. He showed the commission his bike with the plastic so that they could see an example of the coverings. He answered questions regarding the use of the plastic and well as how other parks address this issue. Bryan Dolan asked Riley to think about if there is anything that could be done or made available to riders so that the BMX bike policy will be successful. Riley did add that he and his friends really want this park and wouldn't want to do something that would take it away from them and he would feel compelled to remind non-compliant riders about the policy. He does worry about older riders that don't like using plastic as they may refuse to follow the policy. Jon did remind the group that there will be a six month grace period for bike use.

Discussion turned to the signage for the park. The final draft for the skatepark rules will have to be submitted to the town insurance company for review. Jon suggested that a temporary banner be used until the permanent sign is completed.

●Construction Update

Jon stated that construction is staying on track; the forman stated a few weeks ago that the week following Thanksgiving they could possibly finish up.

●Budget

At a previous commission meeting there was a question if the project went under budget would there then be extra money for other items not covered in the grant. Jon did say the grant is written for a certain percentage of the cost and there would be no extra money if the project ran under budget.

4. Norma's/Rutter's Park Project Update

The commission was given a schedule of the project starting with the RFP for Design Service in January, with the proposal due in mid February. Meetings will begin in March, with survey completions due in the spring. The design alternatives would be planned this summer and the Master Plan and cost estimates are planned for September.

5. Fieldhouse Sustainability Efforts

Jon sent a letter to the Montague Energy Committee asking for their guidance and endorsement on sustainability initiatives for Unity Park Fieldhouse. Sally Pick, Montague resident and member of the Energy Committee volunteered her time and walked through the Fieldhouse looking at different areas such as heat loss and lighting. Jon would like to pursue the concept of solar panels. The panels are very expensive but still something he would like to investigate.

6. Winter Programs

Youth basketball and Blue Fish registrations began a month ago. We will be having the Free Throw Contest as well as the American Red Cross Babysitting Course, Sawmill Run and Open Swim. The Cookies and Canvas is a new program that we will offer this February.

7. Director's Report

There were no questions.

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Adjournment: 4:16 p.m.