

## PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, January 18, 2017

3:30p.m.

Unity Park Fieldhouse

56 First Street

Turners Falls, MA 01376

**Present:** Dennis Grader, Chairperson, Barbara Kuklewicz, Vice Chairperson, Albert Cummings, Secretary, Jon Dobosz, Director of Parks & Recreation

**Guests:** Rachael Labrie, Anabel Lebine and Elyssa Serelli (3:42pm) from the Great Falls Apple Corps

### Meeting Being Taped

**1. 3:40pm Meeting Called to Order**

**2. 3:35pm Approval of December 14, 2017:**

**Motion:** Made by Barb Kuklewicz to accept the December minutes, seconded by Albert Cummings.

**Approved: 3-0**

**3. 3:42pm**

**Unity Park Community Garden, Leadership Agreement;** A written proposal was submitted by the Great Falls Apple Corps with regard to the coordination of leadership of the Unity Park Community Garden. Elyssa Serelli addressed the commission expressing their appreciation for the opportunity to use this land to garden. She spoke about the group's fall clean up this past October, where about 15 people cleaned out leaves, pulled weeds, laid down cardboard and mulch for paths, all in preparation for this spring. The group proposed the following as tasks they would like to take on:

- Organize sign-ups for garden plots, advertise with fliers to let the community know there are beds available.
- Host Spring & Fall Clean Ups.
- Host workshops teaching the community gardening techniques and tips; for example how to make a rain barrel.
- Creating nursery beds with self-propagating plants for community sharing.
- Solving the water problem, making it more accessible for the gardeners. They are currently investigating a water tank they would utilize rain gutters on the garden shed
- Involve the Skate Park community in with the gardens; educating them (with signs) to distinguish between the personal plots, which should be left undisturbed, and the community plot, which can be eaten and enjoyed. There were times when the group was working in the gardens and skaters did come over, helped spread some mulch and enjoyed snacks. A peaceful coexistence makes sense.

Jon gave a brief history of the Community Garden, stating that the leadership for many reasons hasn't been consistent, and the garden never reached its potential. All involved are excited to build this garden into a real community space where all kinds of people with different backgrounds and interest work together. Jon asked that once the group has set dates for these workshops to let him know so that he can put that information in our spring brochure and our departments Facebook page.

**Motion:** Albert Cummings makes the motion to accept the Great Falls Apple Corps coordination of leadership of the Unity Park Community Garden with the department, seconded by Barbara Kuklewicz.

**Approved: 3-0**

**4. 4:03pm Sawmill River 10K Run, Initial Assessment**

Jon wanted to initially assess the race as it had only half its usual runners. The freezing weather kept many runners away. This worried Jon, he thought financially we would take a big hit, but it did not turn out to be such a loss. Expenses were minimal and we will mostly likely take in a profit of approximately \$1500. Next year we will look into finding an automatic timing company. The profit/loss statement will be finalized in the next month or so.

- 5. 4:07pm Revised FY17 Financial Evaluation**  
Jon reminded the commission this is a revision, and corrections were made. There was no further discussion.
- 6. 4:08pm Fall 2017 Programs, Profit/Loss Statements**  
  - **Soccer** took in a moderate profit of \$154.09. Next year we will go back to ordering the less expensive uniform shirt, as the tie dyed ones we've ordered the last two years have become too expensive. This fall we had a Squirts team with 24 kids, 3 & 4 Grade Travel team with 9 players, and 5 & 6 Grade Travel team of 13 players.
  - **Scarecrow Stuffing Party** was as expected; we have good years and we have not so good years.
  - **Pumpkinfest** the bottom line will be adjusted; the administrative fee will be removed as this is a service we provide for the community and Pumpkinfest. The organizers of the event purchase the supplies and the pumpkins are donated. Next year we may do something differently with the paint as far as handing it out to the public; we let people take what they wanted and it was wasteful in many cases. We did purchase a small advertisement in The Recorder but Jon feels the high profile of the event benefits the department.
- 7. 4:12pm Rutter's Park Improvement Project – Design Phase Update**  
Provided in the Commission's packet was an estimated price list for the project. The committee met last week to discuss the phasing options of this project. Currently the project is looking at two phases; with the largest parcel of the lot, including the pavilion, as being Phase I. We drew back on the cost of the playground equipment (75%) from the original equipment cost as that material was very high end. The committee feels they can accomplish their goal with a different, more affordable option. There is a Community Development Block Grant hearing February 5, at 7:15 p.m. It's a public hearing and the Rutter's Park Project will be discussed. There was further discussion on specific items on the list; the bike rack was eliminated because there were bike racks left over from a previous project. The picnic tables, costing \$3000, are anchored in concrete and A.D.A. accessible. Jon is happy with how the project is moving along.
- 8. 4:18pm Montague Center Park Project Update**  
A survey was created for the community and is included in the commission's packet. This survey was designed to measure the preferences of residents and solicit public opinion regarding any improvements to the park. Jon will have a hard copy of the survey at the Montague town library and as well as an online survey. Both will be available until March 16. He will be developing a Facebook page to get this information out the public as well .
- 9. 4:20pm Franklin County 5K Beneficiary Letter**  
Jon would like to thank the Franklin County Spring 5K for choosing the Park & Recreation as their 2018 Beneficiary! This will help out our department greatly and Jon is working on how we can be a presence at this event. We could have our own table with a banner and hand out program information.
- 10. 4:21pm Directors Report**  
There were no questions.
- 11. 4:22pm Other Business**  
Jon is in the process of organizing a Friends of Skatepark get together on February 13, at 6:30 here at the Fieldhouse. We want to maintain the same energy that was put into the building of the skatepark now that it's complete. We need to get the input of the park's users and other interested parties as we go forward with fundraising. There are still items that people expressed interest in like having some kind of sun shelter. We want this to be a dynamic space with creative programing, not just a place for people to use with no investment in its future.
- 12 4:25pm Adjournment**  
**Motion:** Made by Barb Kuklewicz to adjourn; seconded by Al Cummings.  
**Approved: 3-0**

X \_\_\_\_\_

Albert Cummings, Secretary Date

or

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Name & Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Print

Date: \_\_\_\_\_