



**SHERMAN
PARK AND RECREATION**

Mallory Town Hall
Sherman, Connecticut 06784

(860) 354-3629

**SHERMAN PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

July 8, 2013

Present:

Fran Frattini – Chairman
John Wrenn – Director
Karen Kellett, Secretary
Denise DePalma
Stan Greenbaum
Kris Fazzone

Absent:

William Butts
Scott Berlinger

Guests:

Chris Jellen and Jim Munch were present in the audience.

Call to order:

Chairman Frattini called the July 8, 2013 Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:39pm.

Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2013 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting minutes was made by Stan Greenbaum. The motion was seconded by Denise DePalma and minutes were accepted as written unanimously.

Correspondence:

Fran Frattini noted a correspondence she had answered regarding parking at the town park beach for a Boy Scout event that had taken place between this meeting and the last.

Old Business:

1. There was a discussion about setting up accounting software on the Park and Recreation computer. Stan Greenbaum, Fran Frattini and John Wrenn tentatively set July 19 at 11:00am as a time to work on installation.

2. Jim Munch described his qualifications as an urban commercial forester and licensed arborist and the process he used during the tree-clearing project at Colonial to

Town Park. Mr. Munch described his strategies as well as the safety measures he employed with the nearly completed project. He indicated that he questioned the proposed need to bring in a state forester to oversee the project.

Chris Jellen noted that he felt the oversight of the project should have been handled differently but that the Selectmen were not questioning Mr. Munch's abilities and professionalism. There was further discussion, including Park and Rec's involvement during the project, their trust in and gratitude for Mr. Munch's work and the decreasing amount of control the department as over Park and Rec's lands. Mr. Munch noted that his business was hurt by the controversy surrounding this project and that he did not wish to continue the final phase of the project in the fall. The commission expressed their regrets that he felt that way. Mr. Wrenn noted that perhaps any criticism directed toward the project was meant not for Mr. Munch but for the Park and Recreation Commission. Mr. Munch described what was still needed to complete the project.

3. It was noted that the trails at Volunteer Park needed to be marked and that perhaps a Boy Scout troop would take on the task. Mr. Munch offered to share a copy of the map of Volunteer Park from the forestry/logging project he did there.

4. Kris Fazzone gave an update on the ACL injury prevention program. The class is full, kids are having a good time and learning a lot. It occurs every Wednesday over the summer from 5:15 – 6:45pm at Colonial Park. There are 2 – 4 coaches involved in the follow-up training.

New Business:

1. There was a report that 2 kayaks had been stolen from the rack at the town park and a report had been made to the state trooper. The commission will look into the lighting at the beach and upgrade if necessary. Other possible security measures were discussed, including cost, logistics and power sources for video surveillance.

2. Denise DePalma opened a discussion about having Relay for Life at the school track. John Wrenn asked for a date and the timing and he would start the process to secure the areas needed.

3. Fran Frattini noted that the Triathlon was canceled for this year according to Scott Berlinger.

4. Denise DePalma noted that Babi Floyd has passed away and that some sort of tribute to his memory would be good to plan. There was a discussion. It was suggested that local musicians might want to be involved and any proceeds could go to the scholarship fund set up for Mr. Floyd's youngest son. Karen Kellet agreed to work with Denise DePalma on this project.

A motion to proceed with a Babi Floyd tribute concert was made by Kris Fazzone and seconded by Stan Greenbaum. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Kris Fazzone opened a discussion about excessive speed by vehicles on Saw Mill Road. Possible approaches to the problem were discussed, including involving the state trooper.

6. Denise DePalma had been approached by someone who suggested that the veterans gazebo may be in need of a new coat of stain. Fran Frattini will contact the Veterans group and see if they want to take on the project or need Park and Rec's help.

7. Kris Fazzone and Stan Greenbaum had met with Charlie Reppenhagen and Steve Rothwag to walk through the proposed senior housing project area. The discussion included: a plan for improved sight lines; traffic control issues; possible reconfiguring of the parking lot and community garden while the senior housing driveway was being constructed. It appears that they will exit/enter directly onto Route 39 adjacent to the stonewall at the south side of the property.

8. Public relations issues, especially at budget time, were discussed. Included were ideas about better utilization of the website and newspaper coverage. Fran Frattini noted that more work will be done on or near the bridge by the American Pie Company. Some equipment will be stored at Colonial Field. Watercourse material may be involved and concerns were raised about the possible damage that might do to parking lot. It was noted that a requirement to use safety measures to keep children from playing in mounds of materials and to restore the parking lot to its former state should be in the contract.

10. Sandwich boards for concert/event promotion were discussed. John Wrenn stated he already had one 2-sided sandwich board sign that had been painted white already and he had lined someone up to do the lettering.

Director' Report:

John Wrenn reported the following information:

1. SPARK had an average of 11 children daily in June and collected \$3,655. A total of \$29,050 had been collected with only \$240 still outstanding. Mr. Wrenn noted that these figures should keep the program in the black.

2. SPARK will be in need of a new co-director to replace Morgan Hill. He will not be returning in the fall. The position will be advertised and hopefully the commission will have a recommendation to bring to selectmen's August meeting.

3. There is Park and Recreation work that needs to be done, such as dragging the beach, emptying garbage pails, raking the baseball field, mowing, trimming, repairs to the boardwalk, blowing off gazebo and tennis/basketball courts. Park and Rec needs to look into hiring a part time maintenance person. There was a discussion.

Kris Fazzone made a motion to recommend hiring Donny Borkowski's son for part time work 3 days per week as an interim Park and Recreation maintenance person. Karen Kellet seconded the motion. Three in favor; one opposed (Denise DePalma). The motion was carried.

4. Summer program sign-up numbers area s follows:

Junior Camp – 34; Senior Camp – 78;
Swim lessons – session one- 23, session two – 25, session three – 18
Tennis lessons – going well but no groups only all individual lessons
Soccer Camp – canceled due to low enrollment
Baseball Camp – 4 signed up so far
Regular Soccer Camp – 2 signed up so far
Lego Camp – only 1 sign up so far

5. A new garden sign had been ordered for \$45.

6. Bathrooms at the Town Park and Veterans Field have been opened, closed and cleaned daily.

7. No major incidents reported at Town Park, except for some use of bad language.

8. The checking account report was shared with the commission; Balance as of 7/8/13 is \$3,529.18.

Karen Kellet would like the concerts to be posted on the website. Mr. Wrenn will do so as soon as the concert dates were decided.

There was discussion of mowing and maintaining the point at the town park. It was noted that Park and Rec used to take care of the point but now First Light will not allow it. It was suggested that making it a buffer garden might satisfy First Light's regulations and improve the condition of the point.

Stan Greenbaum made note of the camps being run by the Jewish Community Center in August after Park and Rec's camp is over; Earth Crafts, Recycle Your Pants and Movement, Storytelling and Theater.

The annual Water Carnival on Saturday, July 20 was discussed, as well as the upcoming "Pears" concert at the park on Saturday July 27. Both will be great fun for all ages.

Kris Fazzone made a motion to adjourn the July 8, 2013 Park and Recreation Regular Commission Meeting. The motion was seconded by Stan Greenbaum and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Kellett
Park and Recreation Secretary

Mary Jo Dix
Recording Secretary

These minutes are not considered official until they have been approved at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission.