



SHELTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

The Shelton Parks and Recreation Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 7:30 pm at the Shelton Community Center, 41 Church Street, Shelton, CT.

Commission Members

John Papa, Chairman
David Zamba, Vice Chairman
Lorenzo Durante (Absent)
Michelle Haywood
Stanley Kudej
Debra McGlone
Jeff Van Scoy
Gary Cahill (Excused)
Joseph DeFilippo
Terrance Gumbs
Anne Gaydos (Excused)
Robert Zuraw

Ronald Herrick, Jr., Director of Parks and Recreation
Brett Beatty, Recreation Supervisor
Jonathan Taylor, Aquatics Director
Bill Manion, Recreation Supervisor

Chairman John Papa opened the meeting at 7:30 with the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Papa also conducted a moment of silence for Joseph Connor, a past Chairman of Parks and Recreation, who had recently passed away at the age of 84.

PUBLIC PORTION: No one present for the Public Portion.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Jeff Van Scoy made a motion to accept the April minutes, seconded by Robert Zuraw. All were in favor, motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Terry Gallagher wanted to thank Dean Cawthra for the help he gave with the trees on the Birch Bank Trails in Indian Wells. He also mentioned that he did an excellent job cutting them down.
- Ron Herrick spoke about the attendant who works down at the boat ramp at Sunnyside School, who reports every week with the numbers, etc. He had an altercation with one of the river's end slip owners, which resulted in him calling the police, and two patrol cars responded. He became very argumentative when he had refused him to launch his boat. He had gotten in the attendant's face, and a large amount of swearing was directed in his way. There were many witnesses and the police told him to get a permit. The marinas down at the rivers end are very difficult to get a boat in, so they asked to use the Sunnyside ramp at the start of the year to get the boat in, and the end of the year to take it out. There was an agreement in place, but if they want to come and go they need to get a permit like everybody else. Ron also mentioned that the attendant, as well as the police, handled the situation very well.

STAFF REPORTS

Director's Report:

- Ron Herrick also spoke about the financial report, and there will be some changes in some accounts for the end of the year. As far as revenue, there are not many changes. The total is the most we have ever taken in (approximately \$472,000), and it may go up even more. Our goal was \$411,000, so we did very well this year. A lot of it was the young guys that are now working for Parks and Recreation, and membership is up, as well as an increase in pool membership costs.
- Ron Herrick also spoke about Summer Camps, playground program starts in a week and a half, as well as athletic camps, which are starting as well. Basketball had over 100 enrollments.
- Ron Herrick also mentioned that the sod at the Nike Site is in, and they are playing on it.
- Ron Herrick also mentioned there are 3 outside contractors that have cut 4-5 City properties, and we have a gardener that does those areas, and she is paid monthly to water/weed, as well as planting.
- All of the youth leagues have submitted their paperwork, and will get reimbursed. The Community Center gym and dance studio floors has started, and hopefully by next week they will finish, followed by 6 days of wait for it to settle, and hopefully after that it will open.
- They are currently waiting on 2 contracts for the bands for the concert series, and Ron has 4-5 of the checks in his possession right now for this fiscal year, so in the middle of July he can submit the other ones.

- Ron also spoke about crack repairs, and Chairman Papa, Ron Herrick, and Mayor Lauretti took a tour of some places and was instructed to get quotes for Nike Site Tennis Courts and the High School Courts from the company that did the work last time. They also went to East Village Tennis Courts, which are in pretty good shape. They went with a different process for those courts, with a 3 year warranty, and it has been 4 years and there are no cracks, so the Mayor [Lauretti] wants to get a price to go with the same process for the other courts. The Mayor [Lauretti] would also like Sunnyside, Riverview, and the Community Center parking lot's cracks sealed.

Aquatics Report:

Jonathan Taylor gave his report, stating that since last meeting, spring group lessons have finished, and summer group lessons are beginning this week. Summer Session Lessons will begin on Monday the 20th. They have been a little chaotic because there were people that did not show up for the registration, and the classes are almost all filled. Also, a lifeguard class brought in \$900; however, June did not have enough people. Also, Jonathan stated that Special Olympics had wrapped up and a new pool schedule was released. We are now offering Special Needs Family Swim from 11:45 am to 1 pm on both Saturday and Sunday. Once the High School starts, that will go back to just Sunday, he believes. However, there will not be lessons the weekend of July 4th. Jonathan also stated that he is getting very positive feedback about lessons. There is also a 4 week session beginning this week, and there is another 4 week session registering the end of July and going in August. There has been a lot of interest in these sessions. Jonathan also stated that they did have an open swimmer go down this afternoon, and one of the lifeguards got her. The swimmer could not swim, and was in the deep end. The swimmer was fine, and they did not swallow any water.

Parks Superintendent Report:

Dean Cawthra went over his list of items done/to be done:

- a) Pick up trash and empty cans in parks, fields, downtown, and around schools weekly;
- b) Check playgrounds weekly;
- c) Drag and line fields as needed;
- d) Mow and trim around schools, city buildings, and fields;
- e) Add mulch to playgrounds;
- f) Repair equipment as needed

Recreation Supervisor's Report:

Brett Beatty stated that summer programs are beginning, and enrollment is a little lower. Adult programs are under way, and most of the camps are beginning this week. There are approximately 30 specialty camps being run this summer. Hopefully, all will run; most of them have good reception thus far. Playground programs are starting in a week and a half, and they are getting supplies ready. He also stated that he had to hire 9 new instructors, and orientation begins next week. Brett stated that he is very pleased with the 9 new instructors. Brett also stated that he has spent a lot of time marketing the web site, and as of this week, there have been over 13,000 hits. There is also a new TV in the Shelton Community Center lobby, which cycles through all of

the programs offered by the City and Parks and Recreation, as well as any upcoming events. Bill Manion stated that softball is about half-way through for most weeks, except for co-ed, which was rained out 4 out of 6 weeks. Bill also stated that their home plate was stolen twice. They cemented a permanent one, and put up 2 signs that there was video surveillance in property to deter theft of home plate at East Village Park; those signs were stolen as well. Bill also stated that women's league will start the last week of June. They combined with Monroe, so now there are 10 teams (7 in Shelton and 3 in Monroe). They will use 3 of Shelton's fields throughout the week, as well as 2 in Monroe. The fee is pretty much the same, but Monroe teams have to pay an additional fee to their Parks and Recreation Department (Monroe).

Joseph DeFilippo made a motion to accept all Staff Reports, seconded by David Zamba. All were in favor, motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee: Terrence Gumbs stated that there were usual things paid, such as landscaping and fertilizer. There were also legal reimbursements. Also, Terrence stated that there was a \$9,000 payment for the sod at the Nike Site.

Ad Committee: Robert Zuraw elaborated on revenue brought in from ad committee. Ron Herrick stated that Shelton Life had made an error while reporting the concert schedule, but since apologized multiple times. The schedule was from a previous year. Debra McGlone stated that she has a contract in place for a magic show hosted by "Danny Magic".

Gazebo Committee: David Zamba spoke about the orchestra that will be playing on the slab, and mentioned that it is a 56 piece band, and he was concerned with the flatbeds and they need to be parked the long way to conserve room for the orchestra.

Field Maintenance: Stan Kudej stated that tournament time is starting, and that everybody was allowed to announce all-star teams on June 1st, although it usually was announced on June 15th. Stan also mentioned that he cannot control parking down at the boat ramp. Chairman Papa suggested that a note be sent to the Police Chief on behalf of Parks and Recreation stressing their safety concern with parking down at the Boat Ramp in the event of an emergency.

Park Improvements: Ron Herrick stated that they have been getting many compliments on the condition of the fields. Jeff Van Scoy stated that the Nike Site looks good, but in the future there may need to be clay work done.

Jeff Van Scoy made a motion to accept all Committee Reports, seconded by David Zamba. All were in favor, motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- Chairman Papa stated that the August meeting will be cancelled. He also brought up the ordinance recently passed in relation to vendors on the Green. It states that it is \$100/year for permit to serve food on the Green. There is a yogurt business in the Center that wants it changed because they believe these vendors are hurting their business.

Jeff Van Scoy made a motion to accept the Chairman's Report, seconded by Robert Zuraw. All were in favor, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Ron Herrick mentioned the light on the Green where the port-o-lets go, which has been installed. It is not quite finished yet, the light and post is up, but the switch needs to be installed. Ron also mentioned that water had been added by the fountain in order to water the garden. An electric line was also dug and ran. David Zamba mentioned the bench that was put on the Green in memory of his mother, and approves and is appreciative of the act. Ron Herrick also mentioned Long Hill Basketball Court, which one of the hoops was damaged during the winter. It has been taken down, and a replacement has been purchased and should be installed soon.

NEW BUSINESS: No Report Given.

Robert Zuraw made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm, seconded by Jeff Van Scoy. All were in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicholas Twigg

Nicholas Twigg
Clerk

1 tape on file in the City Clerk's office