

## SHELTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

The Shelton Parks and Recreation Commission held a Regular Meeting on Thursday, May 17, 2018 at 7:30 pm at the Shelton Community Center, 41 Church Street, Shelton, CT.

### **Commission Members**

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

Ronald Herrick, Jr., Director of Parks and Recreation (excused)  
Jonathan Taylor, Aquatics Director  
Bill Manion, Recreation Supervisor  
Dean Cawthra, Parks Superintendent

Chairman John Papa opened the meeting at 7:33pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll call was then taken.

### **PUBLIC PORTION**

No one present for the Public Portion.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

**Gary Cahill made a motion to accept the 4/19/18 minutes, seconded by Lorenzo Durante. All were in favor, motion carried.**

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Bill Manion had no correspondence.

John Papa presented an email by Ray Weiner. The email's subject is "RE: Stowe Payment," and expressed that people liked their work on the grass field.

There was a brief statement about Corporation Council and airplanes.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

There was talk about a hiring a new company for fireworks.

Parks & Rec is looking for playground supervisors, preferably college students, for the summer. Please have those interested call Ron or Bill. Sharna Kojak asked if they must be Shelton residents; John Papa said that would be preferred.

John Papa reported eight donations totaling \$1900. There is \$66,783 on the gazebo fund.

### **Aquatics Director's Report:**

Jonathan Taylor reported disruptions in lessons on Tuesday because of the power outage due to the storm; one lesson was completed, but the second needs to be made up. WSI course should be done by the end of the month. There have been upgrades made recently to fuses and the electric system, done by Chris. The pool is warm, and the showers are cold. Debra McGlone asked if any lifeguard certification and recertification classes will be held over the summer. Taylor said that there is one class scheduled with one person signed up currently; they need four to run the class. Taylor mentioned possible contacts for more students. These classes would make \$375 per student.

### **Recreation Supervisor's Report**

Bill Manion reported that on Tuesday there was a loss in power, and the generator kicked in, working right away. Manion decided to postpone activities for that day.

Manion reported that 2018 summer camps will be reduced from 48 to 26. Last year, only 18 ran. Some camps last year cost in the \$300-\$400 range. Debra McGlone stated that Sports Center charges \$89 a week for their camp. Sharna Kojak asked if there were other reasons for camps closing; Manion said that the major reason was, in fact, that camps set their prices too high. One camp that ran charged \$160; one camp that didn't run charged \$295. We take 15% per kid. Minimum number of kids is 4-6; maximum is 25-30.

The gym will receive a new bicep curl machine. Replace some tracks on treadmills.

Currently there's 15 registrants for the bus trip; 25-30 are needed for the trip to happen. Registration runs into July. John Papa ask if a notice on the bus trip was put at the senior center; Manion replied that a flyer has been given to every department.

Several softball games have been rained out.

### **Parks Superintendent's Report**

Dean Cawthra reported that crews have been busy picking up brush following the storm Tuesday. They also assisted in clearing the highways.

Dean Cawthra reported that the entrance gate at the Nike site is in poor condition. There was talk of replacing the gate. John Papa requested Bill Manion to make note of this. A suggestion was made to keep the gate open; Jeff Van Scoy stated that many people have the key to the gate.

**Joseph DeFilippo made a motion to accept all Staff Reports, seconded by Jeff Van Scoy. All were in favor, motion carried.**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Finance Committee:**

No report was made.

#### **Gazebo Committee:**

No report was made.

#### **Field Maintenance:**

Jeff Van Scoy reported Taratino's maintenance of various grass fields. He stated that grass is being cut to 4" high, not 2". Bill Manion stated that the fields were not being weed whacked. John Papa requested that Manion make note of both of these. There was discussion over why Taratino is not performing up to par, and how to oversee that they attain higher performance. Manion asked if Taratino is subbing out, or if this is even allowed.

Van Scoy stated that home plate at the SIS baseball field needs to be raised up. Debra McGlone brought up possible bee problems. Van Scoy said that bees have been a persistent problem for a long time. There was discussion about the mats currently used, which Van Scoy, when asked, said he personally doesn't like. Possible clays to use on various baseball fields were discussed.

The head of softball, Bob Brunick, is doing a good job, according to Van Scoy and McGlone. McGlone stated that there were electrical problems at Mingrone Field due to the storm, and although Sean had promised to work the electric for free, he did not fix the electricity after the storm Tuesday. The exact agreement is a non-written accord, that Sean will service Mingrone for free for five years, in exchange for putting a sign over the scoreboard. The commission tried to find out how to formalize this, possibly by going through the Little League Commission, and if Sean should service the field officially. Currently, Gouley Electric services the fields.

Jonathan Taylor asked about efforts needed by homeowners to hook up to the electric grid after a storm; Van Scoy said that, for utilities in general, the homeowner is responsible to hook up from their home to the street.

### **Park Improvement**

Issues were presented about mulch created by the city. Sharna Kojak had requested that the city spread mulch on a community garden. It was of such poor quality, including long branches in the mix, that she then requested it to be removed, and had a third party put a new layer of mulch down. There was a discussion concerning the possible causes of the mulch being low quality: the machinery itself, and how the machinery is being operated

**Debra McGlone made a motion to accept all Committee Reports, seconded by Gary Cahill. All were in favor, motion carried.**

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

John Papa out feelers about creating a Sunnyside float dock, including cost. In past, Corporation Council concerned about liability of such a dock.

There was talk about a contract to accept, which is currently in Jack Bashar's hands, and will need to be put through the Corporation Council.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Debra asked any finalizations on tennis courts. Papa says city is supposed to mill it down. Waiting for contract for workers quoted for job.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

John Papa brought up a proposition by the car dealership D'Addario. The dealership would pay \$1000 to put one of their cars on the Huntington Green for advertisement. Papa read Huntington Green Policy #6, which stipulates no vehicles on green for display, unless approval by Parks & Rec. Papa stated that we aren't in need of the money. There was concern expressed that this would create a precedent that shouldn't be made. To this, it was stated that we can say yes to one dealership, then no to the next. There was concern about environmental damage to the Green, and commercializing the Green. Debra McGlone stated that, based on her past experience as an attendee of concerts on the Huntington Green, there is not a lot of room even without a car on the green. Bill Minion asked about allowing such a car to be displayed not on the green, but on the street near where the ice cream truck parks. McGlone brought up the problem of liability if the car is damaged.

Gary Cahill noted that this discussion is entirely in the abstract; there is no specific presentation to the commission. He suggested that the dealership, D'Addario, write a letter with the specifics of the proposal, including a liability clause protecting the city from damaged caused to the car by, for example, children playing ball on the green. A motion was made to shelve this discussion. Papa noted that there is enough time before the concerts on Huntington Green to postpone a decision until June.

**Gary Cahill made a motion to shelve discussion on accepting a deal for a dealership to place a car on the green as advertisement until a specific proposal is made, seconded by Debra McGlone. All were in favor, motion carried.**

Lorenzo Durante brought up the issue of people parking on both sides of the street at Capewell Park. For three weeks, he has observed this while soccer games were being played; parking on both sides creates a dangerous situation. John Papa suggested spacing games out. Lorenzo says that spacing games out by fifteen minutes has worked in White Hills. Debra McGlone observed that signs instructing people to not park at one side of the street works well at Sunnyside School. It has worked without there have been any actual towings, in part, presumably, because of police that are present at the games. It was noted that there are often open parking spaces in front of Sunnyside School. Lorenzo and Ronald Herrick will call the head of soccer at Capewell.

**Jeff Van Scoy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:22pm, seconded by Gary Cahill. All were in favor, motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Adam Cleri  
Parks & Rec Clerk