



SHELTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

The Shelton Parks and Recreation Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 7:30 pm at the Shelton Community Center, 41 Church Street, Shelton, CT.

Commission Members

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

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

Chairman John Papa opened the meeting at 7:30 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC PORTION

No one present for the Public Portion.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Robert Zuraw made a motion to accept the February minutes, seconded by Michelle Haywood. All were in favor, motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ron Herrick mentioned a letter from Alan Armstrong, from Mystic, Connecticut, regarding a bench that he, along with friends, would like to donate along the River Walk, in memory of Bill Schumacher. Bill was a long time hike leader for the Appalachian Mountain Club and the New Haven Hiking Club. Once they get approval, they will order the bench, along with parts needed to mount it.

Michelle Haywood made a motion to accept donation for a bench to be placed along the River Walk, in honor of Bill Schumacher, from friends, seconded by Jeff Van Scoy. All were in favor, motion carried.

Discussion:

The Commission discussed this, and decided that they will scope out potential locations for bench to be placed, and will notify Alan [Armstrong] with the location they decide would be ideal.

STAFF REPORTS

Director's Report:

Ron Herrick mentioned financials, with a comparison of this year and last year, last year at this point, there was a total of \$308,000 in deposits, and this year there is \$326,000. In regards to outside camps and programs (there are 4 outside accounts that they deposit money into), last year there was \$48,000, and this year there is \$47,000. However, there are still more deposits to come. As for trips, last year there were \$3,400, and this year there is \$6,100. Everything is mostly up, but, for example, the pool is down a little bit. Ron Herrick also mentioned that there is about 2 weeks left in the indoor season. Ron Herrick also mentioned that Dean [Cawthra] had completed the repairs on the cargo net at Riverview. The roof that was vandalized is on order, and will be shipped the first week of April and installed shortly after. The gate was installed as well. Ron Herrick also mentioned that the Full-Time Park Maintainer position was posted. Applications are being accepted, and as of yesterday, there are 46 people that have applied, with tomorrow being the last day to apply. Ron Herrick also mentioned that they are working with Masuk High School and Derby High School. Masuk needs space to play tennis, and Derby High School needs space to play softball while they are undergoing construction. Ron Herrick also mentioned that Capewell Park is looking for additional parking. They will bring plans to Parks and Recreation, and would like to expand parking. They will also have to go through Inland Wetlands, as well as Planning and Zoning, in order to get approval for this. Ron Herrick also mentioned that there are 4 outside vendors to help with grass cutting; they finalized that and will split up areas. The areas that will be done are Shelton High School, Shelton Police Station, Perry Hill School, Shelton Senior Center, and Pine Rock Fire House. Ron Herrick also spoke about the no-parking signs at Sunnyside School are done, and Ron [Herrick] will be talking to the Mayor [Lauretti] about replacing the windows at the Shelton Community Center. Ron Herrick also mentioned the Nike Site, with the cracks being bad on the Tennis and Basketball courts, which is bringing many complaints. They spoke to the Mayor [Lauretti], and when they begin fixing the

cracks in the road, they will repair these cracks. The costs will be covered by Highways & Bridges. Ron Herrick also mentioned that they are still going over the site of the fireworks, and Robert Zuraw and Debra McGlone went over the mailing that is to go out next month. Finally, Ron Herrick is waiting to hear about Soccer up at Long Hill School, which he is getting calls about, and he is waiting to hear from Little League to see if Soccer can use the fields with them at times simultaneously.

Aquatics Report:

Jonathan Taylor gave his report, stating winter 2017 Swim Lessons will finish tonight with the final make-up classes. Registrations for spring 2017 will begin March 20th, and classes will begin the following week. There is a lot of interest in this, and instructors are signed up, and they just switched to their new pool schedule this week. Also, Water Aerobics continues to have strong enrollments. Also, Jonathan Taylor mentioned that Aqua Zumba has registered and will be starting on the 17th. Also, Jonathan Taylor mentioned that Off the Deep End Friday has its final make-up class 3/10, and will begin a new session on the 17th. These programs are 1 or 2 persons under the minimum, but the instructors are willing to take less, so hopefully they will have a few more people sign up moving closer to the start time. Also, Jonathan Taylor mentioned that a lifeguard class began on the 4th with the new 2017 Red Cross Lifeguarding Program. They are about mid-way through and it is going well. They will need everybody trained to the new program by mid-May.

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) Clean White Hills Recreation Building Weekly When Possible;
- c) Plow snow, shovel and clear walks;
- d) Work on East Village Playground;
- e) Repair equipment at Riverview playground;
- f) Work on equipment;
- g) Paint at SHS;
- h) Paint at Community Center; and
- i) Put new mower out to bid.

Recreation Supervisor's Report:

Brett Beatty mentioned Winter Programs, which in total had 69 classes (35 distinct), with 29 different instructors, and they are wrapping up. There were a few that had to extend because of snow days and instructors being sick, but overall they are mostly ending on time. Spring schedule is out, and there will be 56 programs that will be running; registration is starting and being to pick up. The free trial classes are getting popular, and there is a lot of online registration for those. Brett Beatty also mentioned that summer camps are beginning to be set up, and he is hoping to get 50+ camps going. These camps should be detailed on the website mid-April, and the brochure should be out by the end of April. Brett Beatty also mentioned that since the last meeting, there have been about 4,000 hits. February of 2016 hit total was 40,633, and March of 16 hit totals was 44,505. Debra McGlone mentioned that she was at a party across town, and she overheard women there expressing their appreciation for receiving emails from Brett [Beatty] in regards to programs and reminders to sign up, etc. There were also requests to offer another yoga

class, because it seems to be difficult to get into the yoga class that is currently running. Brett Beatty mentioned that there is an issue with space, as well as instructors available to teach the additional yoga class.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee: No Report Given.

Ad Committee: Robert Zuraw mentioned that there was an update in the mailings, and if a donor pays \$1,000, in addition they are able to speak for 2 minutes the day/night of their advertising.

Gazebo Committee: Ron Herrick mentioned that he has 4 contracts, and David Zamba has more lined up, but Ron [Herrick] has not received the contracts yet.

Field Maintenance: Snow. Snow is going to set everything back a few weeks.

Park Improvements: Ron Herrick mentioned that at Lafayette School, the fence post was damaged during snow plowing.

Michelle Haywood made a motion to accept all Committee Reports, seconded by Anne Gaydos. All were in favor, motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- Chairperson Papa mentioned that he met with Mayor [Lauretti], and spoke about a new Park Maintainer, and he is aware that more people are needed. Chairman Papa mentioned that he and Ron [Herrick] were both optimistic after their talk with Mayor [Lauretti]. There are a few people that he is interested in, so this is a good sign. Chairman Papa also spoke with Mayor [Lauretti] about replacing windows at the Shelton Community Center, and they spoke with Chris Potucek about replacing the windows or bricking them in and putting in smaller ones. The decision is going to ultimately come down to cost. Chairman Papa also mentioned various fences around the City that have been damaged due to snow plowing. He suggested that they should make a list of all damaged fences and get prices to repair/replace them, as well as letting Highways and Bridges know to be careful when plowing. Chairman Papa also mentioned sidewalks on Huntington Road and Long Hill Avenue. Mayor [Lauretti] wants the sidewalks done, and he will give a list of which ones need to be done.

OLD BUSINESS: No Report Given.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Shelton Travel Baseball League

Robert Zuraw made a motion to allow Shelton Travel Baseball to use Shelton Baseball fields at no cost for this year, pending Commission approval for subsequent years, with receipt of all necessary paperwork, seconded by Joe DeFilippo. All were in favor, motion carried.

Discussion: Ron Herrick spoke about 2 letters from Carl Rizzo, whom is the Vice President of Shelton Travel Baseball, sent to Stanley Kudej. The first letter gave an update on Shelton Travel Baseball. The updates are as follows:

They have:

- Created a web site
- Formed a business and applied for non-profit status
- Established a home in Total Sports Academy, Seymour
- Conducted two winter clinics
- Established three managers for three teams
- Held tryouts
- Selected players for three teams
- In the process of entering these teams in the East Shore League

They would like to have more fluid communication between the City league and the Travel League in the future. They will be appointing the 3 Shelton High School coaches to their Board as Advisors, and would like appoint at least both City league Presidents as advisors, as well. They could participate in voting, as much as they would like.

The second letter expressed their gratitude for hearing their request to utilize Shelton Baseball Fields, at no charge. It explained that Shelton Travel League is working with Shelton National and American Little League, as well as Shelton Babe Ruth League, in order to give Shelton athletes an opportunity to play travel baseball without having to leave Little League or Babe Ruth. In recent years, we have seen a decline in enrollment from all three programs, and they feel that Shelton Travel League will be effective in reducing players lost to other travel programs. All of their players live in Shelton, and are required to be active players of Shelton Little League or Babe Ruth. In their first season, they will have 3 teams that will be playing in the East Shore League. Utilizing Shelton fields will keep the costs of their league substantially lower than other travel leagues. They are self-sufficient in funding, and will not request any additional funding from the City [of Shelton]. Their mission is to provide a low cost, high quality option for the Shelton youth, as well as strengthen the enrollment of the 3 Shelton Leagues.

Chairman Papa asked Jeff Van Scoy what fields they anticipate using. Jeff Van Scoy stated that they are looking to use East Village Softball Fields, as well as the larger field at Riverview Park. Robert Zuraw asked if it would interfere with Softball, and Jeff Van Scoy replied that it would

not. Ron Herrick also stated that only Shelton Residents are allowed to participate, and they also need to participate in Little League/Babe Ruth in order to be allowed.

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