

WELLESLEY RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

March 24, 2014

6 pm at Warren Building

Attending:

Mr. Conlin, Mr. Sheehan, Mr. Wrobel & Mrs. Kaseta
Bob Capozzi, Advisory

Business:

Minutes from March 10, 2014 were approved.

Motion: By Mr. Conlin to approve minutes from March 10, 2014
Seconded: By Mr. Sheehan
Vote: All in favor

Beach Safety Team:

The Beach Safety Team (BST) voted to approve two policy changes that were instituted last season. The BST voted to return to a two swim test system; one for the use of the slide and one for deep water swimming. The slide test will be the new Red Cross Basic Water Competency Test, which will require swimming 25 yards and treading water. The deep Water Test will include double the swim distance.

The second policy change is the lifeguard position at the slide. The guard will now be placed at the top of the slide in order to better control use of the slide and have a clearer view. Research was done by Jan Kaseta which supported this change. The Red Cross and other agencies who train water park guards state that a guard should be at the top of the slide, and for large slides, guards may be placed at the half way point and at the bottom (catch pool).

The BST discussed the state implementation of Christian's Law, which will necessitate the purchase of a large number of various sized lifejackets (PFD's). These will be used by non-swimmers and at risk swimmers in our day camps, and may also be used by other beach patrons. Mr. Wrobel asked that something be added to the beach announcement about the use of and availability of USCG approved PFD's.

Mr. Wrobel asked that BST minutes and agendas be posted on the website.

We have seven returning lifeguards committed for this summer.

Meeting with Morses Pond Neighbors:

Mr. Burt, Deputy Police Chief Pilecki, Mr. Chin and Mrs. Kaseta met with a group from the Morses Pond area. Pete Jones did a presentation showing cars parked along Turner and Halsey Roads. The

Deputy spoke about the Town's "no parking" regulations. The neighborhood group did thank Recreation for doing as much as we could to mitigate the parking issues. At the end of the meeting, it was determined that the only real answer is to have no parking signs posted. The neighbors will take this back to the entire neighborhood for discussion.

Playing Field Task Force:

Mr. Sheehan reported that, due to a clerical error, funds earmarked for the turf account were placed in the grass field account. Those funds were used by DPW for grass maintenance. Mr. Sheehan will work with the Recreation Director on a plan to replenish the fund.

Building Permits:

Mrs. Kaseta reported that the Schools had given permits for use of the Middle School during storms, to the camps that use Sprague. Subsequently, those permits were pulled. These camps cannot operate without a backup rain site. Mrs. Kaseta worked with the schools to allow those camps into Gym B at the Middle School. This means that our day camps will give up that space in the event of a storm.

School Rental Fees:

The School Department has agreed to reduce our rental fee by half. The cost will be \$12,000 for Quest, Odyssey and Club Invention. Terriers will remain a full rental fee.

Wellesley Parade:

Mr. Sheehan spoke with Steve Kinsella, who has helped to build the float for Hunnewell School. He has a rolling platform that is no longer in use. Recreation will use it to build a float. Mr. Sheehan suggested that it will take a couple of weekends to put it together.

Mr. Wrobel asked that the Recreation staff prepare a special events flyer with a coupon for a free kayak rental to pass out along the parade route.

Recreation Commission Appointee:

Mr. Conlin reported that Matthew McKay is interested in filling the vacancy left by Tom Harrington. Mr. McKay was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Mrs. Kaseta will find out when the Recreation Commission is scheduled to meet jointly with the Board of Selectmen to make the appointment.

Mr. Wrobel asked that Mr. McKay be added to our email list.

General Discussion – Programs & Facilities:

Mrs. Kaseta told the Commission about the new program that we will be running on Saturday mornings at the Ten Acre School gym. We will be running it in conjunction with Knucklebones Sports. This Saturday we are offering a free "come and try it" day.

Mr. Wrobel asked that a picture of the Needham Bank check presentation be framed and hung in the Recreation office.

Mr. Wrobel asked that a certificate of appreciation be done for Bob Collins, who helped with the ice rink.

Mr. Wrobel asked that we explore a Special Needs Recreation program to be offered through the department.

Citizen Speak:

None

Next Meeting:

The next Commission meeting will be April 14, 2014; 6pm; Warren

Motion: To adjourn by Mr. Sheehan

Seconded: Mr. Conlin

Vote: All in favor

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Kaseta

JK/mc/kb