

SOUTH KINGSTOWN RECREATION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

August 15, 2011

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Biafore called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. at the Town Beach.

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Biafore, Janice Prochaska, and Frank Quinn

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mark Noble, Joanne Blessing

STAFF PRESENT: Terry Murphy, Rex Eberly, Cathy Larlham

GUESTS PRESENT:

MEETING MINUTES: A motion was made by Commissioner Quinn and seconded by Commissioner Prochaska to approve the July 2011 meeting minutes. The motion was approved 3- 0.

CORRESPONDENCE AND PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Email message from Mr. Ken Procaccianti requesting that the Town consider establishing a no smoking ordinance for the Town beach.

Thank you note from trip participant, Leeta Bozek, to Recreation Division for a positive trip experience.

MONTHLY REPORT: A motion was made by Commissioner Quinn and seconded by Commissioner Prochaska to approve the July, 2011 administrative monthly reports. These reports include budget materials for the Guild, PDOB, and Town. The motion was approved 3 - 0.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Village Green Re-opening

It was reported that a Grand re-Opening of the Village Green has been scheduled for Sunday, September 18, 2011, at 4:00 p.m. A ribbon cutting and concert will take place to highlight the major improvements made to the Green through the support of a RI DEM historic/passive recreation grant and Capital Improvement funds. The total cost of the project to date is \$230,000. Elements yet to be completed are electrical wiring and period lighting installation, anticipated to be completed before year end. The community will be invited to attend and enjoy the park and musical entertainment. The event will also highlight the NRPA "America's Backyard" initiative of which the Department is a supporting "Park Partner."

B. Broad Rock Play Fields Rental

It was reported that Mr. Ryan Bate, of South County Adventure Boot Camp, submitted a rental request for use of Broad Rock Play Fields to run outdoor physical fitness classes. He attended the July Commission meeting and gave an overview of his fitness business and classes. The Department proposed that a fee of \$600 per month be charged for rental of the facility including parking lot, ball fields, walking path and surrounding area, between the hours of 5:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on weekdays for the months of September and October. Mr. Bate has submitted the required certificate of liability insurance. It was noted that this particular rental request for an entire park facility was unique and did not fall into a standard rental category as noted on the facility rental fee policy. Requests such as this will be taken into consideration by the Department when updating the facility rental rates.

C. Bike Path Phase III Opening

Director reported that RI DOT hosted a grand opening event for Phase III of the Eugene O'Neill Bike

Path at the Route 1 Train Tunnel on July 21st. The Department supported the event assisting with set up and break down. In addition to Governor Chaffee and DOT Director, Mike Lewis, Members of the State Legislature, Town Council and Recreation Commission were in attendance. The “Tunnel Gallery” was featured as the first municipally approved graffiti art project in the State.

D. Crabman Event

An update was requested regarding the Crabman Triathlon event which took place at the Town Beach on July 31st. It was reported that the event ran smoothly with no issues. Approximately 500 people participated in the sprint triathlon which utilized the Town Beach and surrounding Matunuck area for the bike and run portions of the event. Event producer, TriMom Productions, provided sufficient public safety resources as well as a large volunteer contingent to ensure that all aspects of the program were sufficiently staffed. To accommodate this event, the Town Beach parking lot opening was pushed back from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. The beach and restroom facilities were open at the regularly scheduled time at 8:00 a.m. This was the third year that the Crabman event has utilized the Town Beach facility for this program.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Smoking Policy – Town Beach

Director reported that the Department has received inquiries and requests regarding instituting a no smoking policy at the Town Beach. The Town Wellness Committee is currently drafting a recommendation regarding smoking on Town property. Discussion took place regarding amending the Town Beach Policy for 2012 to include a “no smoking” rule. Present Commission members were in agreement that it should be considered when updating the Beach policies. It was also noted that the Commission would like to consider a general “no smoking” policy in all of the Town’s public parks.

B. Skate Park – Competition, Parks Improvements, Advisory Committee

- A re-cap of the Friends of SK Parks and Recreation Annual Summer Skateboard Competition was reported. A total of thirty participants of varying ages competed at the skate park at Old Mountain in different age and skills categories. Andrew Barbosa, Skate board camp instructor, organized the event for the third year in a row with the purpose of raising funds to pay for park improvements. A total of \$1,164 was raised as of August 15, 2011 with an additional \$950 in donations promised.
- It was reported that the Department intends to establish a Skate Park Advisory Committee made up of a cross section of community members in order to consider input for maintenance and future development of the park and related programs. Involvement of community stakeholders, primarily park users, parents, and local businesses, will help to ensure that any development or programming involving the park is meeting the needs of the community and those who use it.
- Skate Board Camp coordinator, Andrew Barbosa, has presented recommended minor enhancements to the park and some of its features. These improvements include modifications of two ramps to make them less abrupt and more functional. The Department has requested detailed plans of the recommended improvements and will request a review by RI Inter Local Trust before approval to move forward with any work on the park. These improvements will be funded through the dollars raised by the Friends of South Kingstown Parks and Recreation Skate Board competition.

C. Basketball Program 2011-2012

It was reported that the Recreation Basketball Program for 2011-2012 will maintain the same 4 tiered structure as the 2010-2011 season with some modifications regarding eligibility. The major change involves elimination of the rule which requires all Competitive Travel players to participate in the Recreation in house league. The Department anticipates that in excess of 700 youth will participate in the 2011-2012 basketball program.

- Tier 1: Instructional
- Tier 2: Recreation In house league
- Tier 3: Recreation Travel league
- Tier 4: Travel Teams

D. Train Tunnel Gallery – Public Art Project

Director reported that the Department has received generally positive feedback regarding the Train Tunnel graffiti art program which kicked off with the opening of Phase III of the Eugene O’Neill Bike Path. Discussion took place regarding general guidelines for this ongoing program. A set of guidelines regarding the intended and specific use of the tunnel as a “community canvas” will be presented to the Commission at a future meeting.

E. Spring 2012 Event – Peace Dale Neighborhood revitalization Committee & SKPR

Director reported that the Peace Dale Neighborhood Revitalization Committee seeks to partner with the South Kingstown Department of Parks and Recreation to coordinate a Spring outdoor event to celebrate the Village of Peace Dale, its residents, businesses and organizations. The event would run from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. on the Village Green and feature local food vendors, a children’s entertainer and two bands. Sponsorships to cover program expenses will be solicited by PDNRC. The tentative date for the event is Saturday, May 16, 2012.

DIVISION REPORTS:

Recreation Division: A report of Recreation Division activities was given by Superintendent Larlham.

Parks Division: A report of Parks Division activities was given by Superintendent Eberly.

A motion was made by Commissioner Prochaska and seconded by Commissioner Quinn to accept the Division reports. The motion was approved 3 - 0.

NEXT MEETING: The next Commission meeting will take place on Monday, September 19, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Neighborhood Guild.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made at 8:30 p.m. by Commissioner Prochaska and seconded by Commissioner Quinn. The motion passed 3-0.

Closed Meeting took place at 8:30 p.m. Confidential Personnel Matter