

SOUTH KINGSTOWN RECREATION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

March 15, 2010

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Biafore called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. at the Neighborhood Guild.

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Biafore, Joanne Blessing, Mark Noble, Janice Prochaska, and Frank Quinn

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Terry Murphy and Cathy Larlham

GUESTS PRESENT:

MEETING MINUTES: A motion was made by Commissioner Prochaska and seconded by Commissioner Noble to approve the February 2010 meeting minutes. The motion was approved 5 - 0.

CORRESPONDENCE AND PUBLIC COMMENTS:

One e-mail communication from James Walters, coach of the Coventry 11 and 14-year-old basketball team, to Athletic Director, Russ Wyatt was included for the Commission's information. Mr. Walters commended Russ and SKPR for a very well run basketball tournament (referring to the South County Hoop Fest in February).

MONTHLY REPORT: A motion was made by Commissioner Prochaska and seconded by Commissioner Noble to approve the February 2010 administrative monthly reports. These reports include budget materials for the Guild, PDOB, and Town. The motion was approved 5 - 0.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Budget Update:

The Department Director informed the Commission that the Parks and Recreation budget was presented by the Town Manager to the Town Council at the March 2nd budget hearing. The Proposed Town Parks and Recreation budget is \$1,317,088. The Proposed Guild budget is \$817,614. The Proposed PDOB budget is \$81,606. Total proposed Parks and Recreation budget is \$2,216,308 representing a decrease of \$32,551.

B. South Kingstown Dog Park Grand Opening:

The Director informed the Commission that the Grand Opening of the South Kingstown Dog Park will take place on Sunday, May 2, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. The staff has been working closely with the SKDPA to ensure that the park will be ready for the opening. Until the park is fully complete the gates will remain locked. Items to be completed in the next month include posting of rules and regulations, installation of amenities and disposal containers, and installation of the brick entrance. The SKPDA will be sending out invitations in late March or early April. Commissioner Noble commented on how good the park looks and also mentioned that the grounds crew may want to check all of the fence posts to see that all are secure as he noticed that one post was a bit wobbly.

C. Tri-Pond Nature Center Programming Update

The Director and Superintendent Larlham provided a status report on the development of new programming for the Tri Pond Nature Center. In an effort to generate revenues to offset the operational costs of running the Nature Center, the Recreation staff has expanded programming at the Center. Superintendent Larlham explained that in addition to the nature programs and summer camps there will be an arts and crafts camp offered at the Nature Center as well. Additionally, this summer the Department will also offer a mountain biking camp for the first time. Campers will meet at Tri Pond Center in the morning and return to the Nature Center for a lunch break before heading off for more cycling in the afternoon.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Congratulations to Janice Prochaska – Recipient of RIRPA’s 2010 Settimo “Steamer” Ricci Award

The Director announced that the Rhode Island Recreation and Parks Association awarded the Settimo “Steamer” Ricci Award to Commissioner Prochaska for her outstanding volunteer efforts in support of Parks and Recreation initiatives and development on a local, state and national level. Commissioner Prochaska was selected out of several nominees submitted from around the state. The Parks and Recreation staff and Recreation Commissioners congratulated Commissioner Prochaska for her achievement.

B. Request for Use of Bike Path

The Director presented a request to use the bike path for a fundraising walk-a-thon as submitted by Deedra Durocher. The walk-a-thon is in memory of Rotarian, Dr. Vin Turco and to benefit the Polio Plus Campaign of the Wakefield Rotary Club. It meets all of the requirements of the South Kingstown Parks and Recreation “Special Events on the Bike Path” policy. A motion was made by Commissioner Noble and seconded by Commissioner Prochaska to approve the request under the terms approved by the Parks and Recreation Department staff. The motion was approved 5-0.

C. RIRPA Conference

The Director informed the Commission that the Parks and Recreation staff would be attending the annual Rhode Island Parks and Recreation Professional Day on March 16, 2010 at Roger Williams University. The day includes a vendor exhibit and a variety of educational workshops addressing topics such as playground safety, training methods, internet marketing and how to provide positive youth sports experiences. The day closes with a luncheon and awards ceremony. Staff will provide a brief report on the day at the April Recreation Commission meeting.

D. South County Hoop Fest

The Director reported that the annual South County Hoops Fest sponsored by the Department and Friends of South Kingstown Parks and Recreation was a resounding success. Eighty-eight teams from across the state participated in the three-day event. With the superb efforts of the Recreation staff, volunteers and referees, the tournament was extremely well organized and executed. Games were held at six different venues in South Kingstown and Narragansett with the championship games being held at SK High School on Sunday afternoon.

E. Census Bureau

The Director reported that the Guild is partnering with Census 2010 as a Census Assistance Center from March 19, 2010 to April 19, 2010. The Guild is providing space in the lobby for a Census worker to be stationed at peak hours in order to assist anyone in need of help completing the census survey. The Guild is

one of only two assistance centers in the South County area.

F. Wakefield Concert Band

The Wakefield Concert Band was notified that as of the 2010-11 fiscal year, there would be no funding of the Band in the Parks and Recreation budget. In the current 2009-10 budget the Band is funded at \$1,600 to cover the cost of the Director. The Recreation Superintendent and Director met with Band Director, Barry Lieberman and Dave Stevenson on February 16th to let them know of the change. Because the Band has grown and become quite well known in South County and around the state, and has held very successful fundraisers, the Department feels that it is an organization that is able to stand alone and no longer needs the support of The Guild for its continued success. The Parks and Recreation Department will continue to offer in kind support to the Band when it performs in Town during the Annual Tree Lighting and the Marina Park Concerts.

G. Town Code Recommended Revisions

Recommended revisions to the Town Code, Chapter 12 Parks and Recreation, Articles I and II; and Chapter 3 Animals and Fowl, Section 3.16 were presented to the Commission for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Noble and seconded by Commissioner Blessing to approve the recommended revisions. The motion passed 5-0.

DIVISION REPORTS: A motion was made by Commissioner Blessing and seconded by Commissioner Noble to accept the division reports. The motion was approved 5- 0.

Recreation Division: Superintendent Larlham provided a review of division activities including the upcoming Easter programs: Breakfast with the Easter Bunny to be held on March 27, and the Easter Egg Hunts on April 3rd. She also noted that the Summer Camp brochure has been expanded from eight to twelve pages because of the number and wide range of camps scheduled this year.

Parks Division: Director Murphy provided a review of division activities and project updates as submitted by Parks Superintendent Eberly.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, April 19, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Neighborhood Guild.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made at 8:15 p.m. by Commissioner Quinn and seconded by Commissioner Prochaska. The motion passed 5-0.