

SOUTH KINGSTOWN RECREATION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

April 19, 2010

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Biafore

STAFF PRESENT: Terry Murphy and Rex Eberly

GUESTS PRESENT:

MEETING MINUTES: A motion was made by Commissioner Quinn and seconded by Commissioner Noble to approve the March 2010 meeting minutes. The motion was approved 4 - 0.

CORRESPONDENCE AND PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No written correspondence however the Director noted that the Department had received positive phone calls from the public in the past weeks regarding the new Dog Park. The department also received two supportive e-mails from Yoga participants who want to make sure the space at the PDOB will be repaired and continue to be used for the Yoga School. The parks superintendent indicated that there have been calls inquiring about the condition of the Town Beach and whether it will be ready for the summer season.

MONTHLY REPORT: A motion was made by Commissioner Quinn and seconded by Commissioner Noble to approve the March 2010 administrative monthly reports. These reports include budget materials for the Guild, PDOB, and Town. The motion was approved 4 - 0.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Village Green Project Update:

The Director reported that certain components of the Village Green Project will be moving forward beginning with the installation of the new swing sets and construction of a retention wall around the play area. Regarding the necessary wetlands permit, Westcott and Sampson has submitted a response to RI DEM's permit application review comments with revised design plans and is awaiting a response from DEM before the rest of the project can proceed.

B. Earth Day Event

In conjunction with Earth Day, the Department will be hosting a community-wide yard sale to be held on Saturday, May 1 from 9:00 a.m. to noon on the Village Green. Residents are invited to purchase a table for ten dollars or bring their own. There will also be a "Shred It" truck located at the Neighborhood Guild for free shredding services. The public can bring documents for shredding between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. This service is being provided by the Town Recycling Department through grant funding. A roadside clean-up is also planned and community volunteers are being recruited to assist with the project.

C. School Grounds Maintenance

The Department was asked to submit a preliminary budget to the administration for maintenance of all school grounds. The School Department's current three-year contract for grounds maintenance will be ending as of June 30, 2010. Currently, the Parks division provides maintenance on school athletic fields for which the Department is reimbursed annually by the School Department. For 2009-10 the school athletic field maintenance cost is budgeted at \$49,578.

D. PDOB Lease Renewal Status Report

The Director reported that meetings were held with two tenants whose leases are both up for renewal in 2010 – The Museum of Primitive Art and Culture, and South County Children and Family. Both tenants are interested in continuing to lease their current space. A third tenant, Phoenix House of New England, has also indicated its intent to renew.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Flood of March 2010 Damage Report

A report of flood damage from the March 30 storm was provided to the Commission. Parks and Recreation sites that sustained damage were the Peace Dale Office Building which experienced eighteen inches of flood water on the ground floor; the Village Green Play area – all safety ground cover was washed away and/or contaminated; the South County Bike Path – a culvert eroded creating a drop off from the side of the bike path; Treaty Rock Park play area lost ground cover; and the Town Beach had significant erosion causing exposure of cement footings of the pavilion, destruction of the volleyball court and further exposure of wood pilings along the beach where the boardwalk once stood. The Director reported that a preliminary assessment report was submitted to the RI EMA and FEMA. A claim was filed with the Inter Local Trust for the damage to the Peace Dale Office Building and clean up/rehabilitation is in process. The ground floor area will require replacement of some baseboard molding, repair of walls and replacement of flooring in the exercise/yoga room. A loss inventory of all equipment stored in the PDOB has also been prepared and reviewed with the Trust.

B. Town Beach 2010 Fees and Policies

The Commission was presented with a recommended policy and fee schedule for the Town Beach for the 2010 season. The Department is comfortable with the current fees and recommended no changes to either the policy or the fee schedule from the previous year. A motion was made by Commissioner Prochaska and seconded by Commissioner Noble to accept the policy and fee schedule as recommended. The motion was approved 4-0.

C. Old Mountain Field Road Improvement Project

At the March 22, 2010 Town Council meeting, The Council awarded Fleet Construction the bid to grade and pave the roadway and parking area at Old Mountain Field. A preliminary meeting was held with Public Services on April 8, 2010 to review the details of the project. Subsequent to this meeting the Department was notified that the selected vendor had filed for Chapter 11. Due to the circumstances the Town is re-considering use of Fleet Construction for the project and the Department anticipates that the next lowest bidder may be recommended for the project. As part of the project plan and in preparation for paving, the Parks Superintendent has identified approximately six trees along the edge of the roadway that will be removed in order to widen the roadway for traffic flow in and out of the park as well as to provide more adequate parking spaces.

D. Fourth of July Celebration

Director reported that Washington Trust has once again committed to a \$2500 sponsorship for the Fourth of July Celebration. The department is also seeking additional sponsorships in the form of legislative and corporate grants to offset the cost of the event. The sole bidder for the fireworks display was Atlas Pyrovision Productions, the same vendor who has provided the fireworks for the last thirteen years. The musical entertainment will be provided by the Westmoreland Street Jammers. An opening act is being sought to entertain at no charge before the Jammers. The department will also be holding auditions for any local youth who is interested in singing the National Anthem prior to the fireworks display. Children's activities, food concessions and a 50/50 raffle will round out the program.

E. Recware Data Management Application

The Director reported that the Department in conjunction with the Town Information Systems Administrator is exploring the viability of re-implementing on-line registration capabilities in order to make registration more convenient for customers. Currently, customers must call in or mail in their registration, or visit the Guild in person to register for a program. On line registration will increase both efficiency and accessibility to Parks and Recreation programming. A cost benefit analysis associated with the functionality is necessary and will be completed.

F. Request for use of Town Beach

A request for private use of the Town Beach on June 20, 2010 was received by the administration and forwarded to the Department for the Recreation Commission's consideration. A letter from Lorraine Joubert to the Coastal Resources Management Council detailed the request on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Wollenweber. The family would like permission to use the South Kingstown Town Beach for the purpose of a service, in memory of their son, in the form of a Viking ceremony which entails the burning of a small replica of a Viking Ship. A copy of Ms. Joubert's letter was provided to the Commission. Topics of concern from the Commission included safety measures, cost to the Town, if any, and whether the beach would be too busy on a Sunday evening in June. After discussion of all concerns, a motion was made by Commissioner Quinn and seconded by Commissioner Noble to approve use of the Town Beach providing all necessary permits and measurable controls were established, and there would be no cost incurred by the Town. The motion was approved 4-0.

DIVISION REPORTS: A motion was made by Commissioner Blessing and seconded by Commissioner Noble to accept the division reports. The motion was approved 4- 0.

Recreation Division: A report of Recreation Division activities was given by Director Murphy in the absence of Superintendent Larlham.

Parks Division: Parks Superintendent Eberly provided a report of Parks Division activities.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, May 17, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Neighborhood Guild.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made at 8:25 p.m. by Commissioner Prochaska and seconded by Commissioner Noble. The motion passed 4-0.