

Town of Raynham, Massachusetts

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Park & Rec Commission Mtg. 6/7/2016

MINUTES OF THE RAYNHAM PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION Regular Monthly Meeting, June 7, 2016, 6:00 p.m. South School, 305 South Street East, Raynham, MA

In Attendance: Commissioner Jim Brow, Commissioner Chris Shaw, Commissioner Jim Sullivan, Director Elizabeth Francis, and Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary SJ Blanchard.

Outgoing Chairman Chris Shaw called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. The first order of business was the annual reorganization of the Commission. Jim Sullivan nominated Jim Brow to chair the commission through next spring. Chris seconded the nomination and a unanimous vote followed. Jim B. accepted the post and chaired the remainder of the meeting.

There being a full quorum present, the following two meetings' minutes were approved as written. Jim S. made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2016 meeting. Chris seconded the motion and the two voted in favor. Jim B. abstained from voting as he had been absent from the April 5th meeting.

Jim B. made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2016 meeting. Chris seconded the motion and the two voted in favor. Jim S. abstained from voting as he had been absent from the May 3rd meeting.

Present at this meeting was Mike O'Connell, owner of Spark Bike Run Sports located at 225 Cape Highway, E. Taunton. He presented the plans in place to hold the third annual "Crosstoberfest" event on Oct. 19, 2016, again at Borden Colony between the hours of 5 and 11 p.m. Plans include establishing a separate course for kids, the hiring of a police detail and seeking a one-day liquor license for the on-site craft beer vendors.

In addition, O'Connell is planning to hold a family-friendly event on Sat., Nov. 26, 2016 at Borden Colony from 8 or 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. At this point, he is undecided whether or not alcohol will be available. Liz indicated that there are no issues with either date. Chris made a motion to accept Spark's permit applications for both events with fees of \$120 for the first 4 hours and \$30 for each additional hour, plus a flat rate of \$30 per hour for electricity for each date. Jim S. seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed.

Liz reported on the following:

- Work on the infield at the McKenney Babe Ruth Field has been completed.
- She is still in need of RYBSA's tournament dates; no permit applications have been received.

To date, there have been no known problems with parking at the rear of the Merrill School.

There is not yet anything new to report relative to the establishment of policies and procedures for the naming or dedication of public facilities within the town. Liz is continuing to work on this.

Bettencourt Field needs to be overseeded and additional hardy grass mixes will be introduced. There will be no lacrosse played there for the next two years.

RMS's irrigation lines have been repaired, composting and overseeding completed, and the area is looking better. All summer programs are currently online. New this year will be a July fishing clinic for youths, to be held at Johnson's Pond with the MA Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife. Next spring Liz would like to offer a similar program prior to the annual May fishing derby.

Following a motion made by Chris and seconded by Jim S., a unanimous vote established the following meeting schedule through the end of 2016: July 12; Aug. 2; Sept. 6; Oct. 4; Nov. 1; and Dec. 6.

The following summer and fall field-use permit requests were acted on:

- A request was submitted by Raynham Public Library director Eden Ferguson to hold a picnic and field games on the lawns near the Borden Colony gazebo to commemorate the end of the children's summer reading program. The event will be held on Aug. 11 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Chris made a motion to approve this request with no fee; Jim S. seconded and a unanimous vote followed.
- LaLiberte Elementary School principal Dennis Bray submitted a request to hold the school's annual Harvest Fair at the Merrill baseball complex (fields 1 – 7) and the Bettencourt Field from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sept. 24 (rain date Oct. 1). Chris made a motion to approve this request with no fee; Jim S. seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

Raynham Giants Football requests the use of the Bettencourt Field for an open house to be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sat., June 18. Liz stated that she has no issues, but advises that caution be taken with tent poles relative to the irrigation system. Chris made a motion to approve with no fee; Jim S. seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

Approval was also given for the Giants' use of Bettencourt Field and the Burke Babe Ruth Field for its fall season which runs from Aug. 7 to Oct. 13. Usage will be from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends. Jim S. made a motion to approve with no fee; Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

Approval was also given to hold the Jocks Speed Camp at the RMS track and infield from July 6 to Aug. 4, Mondays – Thursdays from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Jim S. made a motion to approve with no fee; Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

A request was made to hold the Jocks Football Camp at the Burke Babe Ruth Field Aug. 8 – 12 from 5 to 7 p.m. Jim S. made a motion to approve with a \$500 fee; Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

PLU Inc. representative Ginny Trainor requests the use of the Reid Softball Field and the Borden Colony Softball Field for the annual Breast Cancer Softball Fundraiser Tournament, to be held on Aug. 6 and 7 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Jim S. made a motion to approve with no fee; Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

Audrey Collazos of 236 Chestnut Farm Way, Raynham requests the use of the pavilion at the MLArruda Field for a children's birthday party on Aug. 13 from 3 to 7 p.m. Her application form indicated plans to have a bouncy house erected there for the party's duration. Liz pointed out that the installation of the bouncy house could prove problematic to the underground electrical and irrigation lines there. Jim S. made a motion to approve the use of the pavilion, with no bouncy house, for a fee of \$120; Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

- Jason Randall of 464 Pleasant Street, Raynham presented an application to hold the state softball and baseball tournaments at the Merrill baseball complex (fields 1 – 7) July 1 – 10 (weekdays: evenings only; weekends: all day). Chris made a motion to approve this request with a fee of \$540; Jim S. seconded and a unanimous vote followed. Randall also provided

the dates of July 24 – 28 for the annual Jared Monti Tournament and said the permit application would be forthcoming for the July commission meeting.

Jim S. reported that the installation of the new gate at Reid Field came out nicely.

Jim B. asked about the leases for the agricultural land utilized by Tony Arruda and Liz reported that they are still awaiting the consolidation of the leases from Town Administrator Randy Buckner.

Liz presented two summer scholarship requests.

The first is from a single mother of two who is disabled. She provided the required documentation and is seeking any assistance for one child's enrollment in the summer program. Jim S. made a motion to waive 50% of the fee for the entire summer; Chris seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed.

The second request is from a single mother who is asking for assistance for two of her three children in the half-day summer program. Jim S. made a motion to charge \$40 per week per child for the entire summer; Chris seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed.

Liz said that the end-of-the-year finances show the Department to be in good shape. Office heating bills were markedly lower, likely due to the new siding and the mild winter weather. Bills for the work done at McKenney Field have not yet been paid. Personnel costs for the summer playground program are projected to increase over last summer due to January's increase in the minimum wage. Therefore, she is not looking to increase staff numbers but will replace staff as needed.

She indicated that things look good at the Merrill complex with the exception of one remaining original wooden picnic table which shows significant rot. She said that there are funds to replace it with a vinyl-coated steel set to match the other newer ones at the site and asked the commissioners for their thoughts on the matter. The consensus was to wait a bit and see if it's truly needed, or if there seems to already be a sufficient number once the wooden one is removed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

SJ Blanchard

Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary

