

Town of Raynham, Massachusetts

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Park & Rec Commission Regular Monthly Meeting 10/4/2016

MINUTES OF THE RAYNHAM PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION

Regular Monthly Meeting, Oct. 4, 2016, 6:00 p.m.

South School, 305 South Street East, Raynham, MA

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

Chairman Jim Brow called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Chris S. made a motion to approve the minutes of the Sept. 6, 2016 meeting. Jim B. seconded the motion and the two voted in favor.

Regarding the suggestion made by Chris Shaw at last month's meeting, Liz extended an invitation to local resident Tyler Clark to attend this meeting and elaborate on his idea for placing geo-catches at the King Philip Street ballfields. He was, however, unable to attend the meeting.

Relative to the Department's funding request for repairs to the town's outdoor basketball courts, Liz met with the Capital Planning Committee. Committee members questioned whether the B-R school district would contribute towards the repairs, which Liz feels would be unlikely. She has asked for written quotes from Stanley and Lopes for the paving work, and Stanley has declined to bid. She may seek an additional quote from Hyde Paving, but noted that it's a waste to seek these quotes if we don't have the funds lined up. Another consideration is that asphalt prices fluctuate according to world oil prices. Liz added that the cost of fencing or guardrails is not included in the proposal because she estimates that the costs of the paving, painting and hoops alone will be in the \$50,000 range.

Signs were recently posted at the courts, advising that they are closed during school hours (8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) and after 10 p.m., as well as no loitering.

A request has been submitted by Girl Scout troops #80330 and #88269 for the use of the South School basement for weekly meetings on Wednesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. Commissioners indicated their approval of the idea, with Chris S. calling it "a great idea for the use of the space," and the Chairman concurred. Approval will also need to be granted by the Raynham Channel, as its offices are housed within the building, and it would need to have a staffer onsite during the meeting times.

The following fall field-use permit request was acted on:

- Raynham Cub Scout Pack 43 submitted a request to hold a "Community Trunk or Treat" event at the lawn area around the gazebo on Sat., Oct. 29 (rain date Sun., Oct. 30) from 1 to 5 p.m. Dubbed a Halloween party alternative, participating vehicles would park on the grass and open their trunks, which have been decorated. Attendees would go from vehicle to

vehicle, gathering treats from each. The event would be open to all Raynham families. Chris made a motion to approve this request; Jim B. seconded and the two voted in favor.

Liz said that she has not yet received a field-use application for the Giants Super Bowl.

Liz explained that the Department plans to expand preschool programming. Currently, two preschool weekly programs are being run at the South School. Program coordinator Heather Nix is running a crafts program on Tuesday mornings and Triumph Inc. holds a music & movement program on Thursday mornings. In addition, a STEM night will be held at LaLiberte, facilitated by the Easton Children's Museum.

Chris Shaw extended kudos to the grounds crew's preparations for the Bettencourt Football Field rededication on Sunday, Sept. 18. Calling it a well-run, good community event, he said that the memorial and field looked great and that he was happy to have been invited.

The Chairman said that the Giants organization will be hosting the Nov. 20 Super Bowl game and has asked about the possibility of unbolting and moving the baseball bleachers for the event. Liz pointed out that this would probably create a liability issue, as these bleachers are designed to be permanently mounted onsite. She suggested that the organization look into the possibility of purchasing portable bleachers or renting them. The Chair also noted that the men's restroom at the athletic complex is undergoing repairs.

He added that he'd been disappointed that the Park & Recreation Commissioners had not been invited into the center at the rededication ceremony.

Liz reported that grounds crew foreman Tom Bullock has resigned from the highway department and is now with the central water department. The timeline for filling his position is unknown and the grounds crew is currently short two workers.

Commissioners reviewed and signed Liz's new contract, dated July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017. With the exceptions of the dates and the salary changes, all language remains the same as the previous contract. Chris S. made a motion to approve the new director's contract; Jim B. seconded the motion and the two voted in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
SJ Blanchard
Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary

