



UNAPPROVED

Minutes of the
Parks and Recreation Commission
Meeting

July 28, 2015

In Attendance:

Phil Kearns, Chairman
Barbara Dobbin, Vice Chair
David Shofi
Kim Hulber

Paul J. Roche, Director
Robin Matthews, Asst. Dir.
Eileen Cipolla, Acct.

These minutes are a general summary of the meeting and are not intended to be a verbatim transcription.

Meeting called to order by Chairman at 8:05 p.m.

Recognition of Guest:

No guests to be recognized.

Approval of Agenda:

The agenda as presented was approved.

Minutes

The minutes as presented were approved.

Financial Status:

Ms. Cipolla reported that year-to-date revenue is above budgeted numbers and year-to-date expenses are slightly over budgeted numbers. The final year end numbers will be available late August after all expenses have been reported.

It was reported that Martin Park Beach is on target for July revenue numbers; however June numbers were slightly down possibly due to weather. Parks and Recreation has recently launched a promotion to get a final push on the Martin Park memberships. There was a brief discussion regarding the possibility of the effects the Spray Bay has had on the beach memberships. The Commission discussed future plans to help increase revenues at Martin Park Beach.

Chairman:

Mr. Kearns had no business to report at this time.

Director's Report:

- Mr. Roche mentioned that summer camp numbers have done very well, compliments to Ms. Matthews and her staff. The summer camp counselors are doing a great job and we have improved the camp program.

Mr. Shofi asked how the camp revenue numbers for this year compare to last year. Mr. Roche mentioned that we are showing a 33% increase.

- Mr. Roche updated the Commission on the progress of the Ballard Park – Imagination Station playground project. He mentioned that the old wooden parts have been removed, soil removed and preparation is ready for the



- installation of the surface and equipment. Mr. Roche mentioned that the sewer line will need to be re-routed and there may also be some additional expense for the hauling of materials. Mr. Roche mentioned to the Commission that the Friends of Ridgefield Parks and Recreation has raised over \$495,000 to date and there may be a need for an additional \$10,000-\$30,000 to cover these extra costs.

After much discussion, Ms. Dobbin made the following motion:

"Hereby approve the spending of up to \$14,000 from the Ballard Park Fund as part of the development of the Ballard Park playground."

The motion was seconded by David Shofi and passed unanimously.

Assistant Director-Recreation:

Ms. Matthews asked if there were any questions on her July report. Ms. Matthews reported that a transition is currently underway from one fencing program to our new program and things are going smoothly.

Ms. Matthews also reported that there have been some break-ins at Martin Park Beach and that cameras will be installed in the near future.

Assistant Director-Parks:

Mr. Schneider's report was covered under the Director's.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Aquatics & Programs -David Thaxter:

It was reported that the vendor at Martin Park Beach is working out well. There have been some theft problems as reported above. The Recreation Center lap members will be using Barlow Mountain pool during the Rec Center's pool closure in August.

Buildings & Grounds – David Thaxter

It was reported that a question received from the American Legion Baseball League regarding field usage was answered and the issue was resolved by the sub-committee.

Annual Goals & Marketing Plans:

The membership numbers continue strong for the month of June. A promotion plan for Martin Park Beach is currently underway.

Budget & Policy-Phil Kearns:

In Mr. Kearns reported all areas continue strong; however, birthday parties are down slightly.

Special Services Issues – Barbara Dobbin:

Ms. Dobbin reported that the Department had been turned down by SPHERE for reduced fees for the use of a bus for our Out and About program. Ms. Dobbin also reported that the Town's Social Services Department is looking for Parks and Recreation to provide handicap port-a-johns at all Town parks and fields.

Strategic Plan-Gina Carey

There was nothing to report at this time.

Old Business:

No old business to report.



New Business:

No new business to report.

Ms. Dobbin mentioned that there were several large trees covered with heavy vines along the Recreation Center trail. Ms. Dobbin asked if the outdoor parks crews could remove them and clean up the area. Mr. Roche stated that he will take care of the trail.

A motion to adjourn was made by Kim Huber and seconded by David Shofi at 9:04 p.m.

*Minutes Approved: _____

Evie Bottali, Secretary
(Submitted by Barbara Dobbin, Asst. Chair)