

October 7, 2019 Parks & Rec Commission Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: B. Kniska, M. Pulse, K. Moody, N. Kaplan, T. Bruni and T. Quinn

Call to order by K. Moody at 7:01

Additions to the meeting notes-two high school students at the meeting to discuss the possibility of a skatepark in town. Move to accept by N. Kaplan, second by M. Pulse

Correspondence-None

Committee Reports:

Facilities: N. Kaplan reported being at the RecPlex during the week and it was crowded. He hopes that sports leagues are following EEE warnings to be off the fields 1 hour before sundown.

Finance/Administration: nothing to report

Programs: Nothing to report

BOS: N/A

BOF: N/A

BOE: N/A

Old Business: N.Kaplan spoke to Selectman about the signs going up at the fields regarding behavior by athletes, coaches and parents. He was told that they are going to the printers this week.

57 Fest: There was a loss of \$10K this year due mainly to the car raffle. This amount will come out of programs. We may not have a 57 Fest next year and the BOF has been asked to put on a question about whether to continue it on their survey.

Skateboard representatives were present and offered some ideas about what they would like to see in a new skateboard park. These ideas included rails, ramps and bowls. They would like to see the new skatepark be double the size that we currently have. It has been suggested by Parks & Rec that a new skatepark could be built next to the tennis courts on the bocce courts that have not been used in some time. It was explained to the kids that this project would be self-funded, meaning the money will not come out of the town budget. T. Quinn said that a sub-committee would need to be put together in order for this to move forward, a plan to raise money and ideas on how to develop the park. M. Pulse does see push-back from the community so we need to explain that a new skatepark is good for the kids and they will have a place to go. T. Quinn also suggested that bikes be allowed too at the park therefore opening it up to more kids. Motion to accept forming a sub-committee-B.Kniska, second-T.Bruni. Student reps left their name and emails with T.Quinn.

New Business: Trick or Trunk, Fireworks and the Costume Parade are scheduled to happen on November 1, 2019. T.Quinn informed the committee that she has been made aware of concerns about the new date since November 1st falls on a Jewish holiday. The First Selectman

has requested that the fireworks portion of the event be rescheduled or canceled. A. Shilosky will bring this up at the BOS meeting and decide from there. For the record the Parks and Rec Commission will not change to date as it may set a precedent for other groups to make the same request in the future.

Minimum wage Statement: T.Quinn has prepared a statement regarding the new minimum wage law and how it will impact our programs. She would like to put this in the bulletin to explain that the new minimum wage increase will mean an increase in program fees. This will also impact our hiring process as most of our employees are hired in the summer for camp and are paid an hourly wage. T. Quinn has passed this on to the CFO. M.Pulse has offered to help with the explanation.

Space for programs: The owners of the former Appletree daycare on Halls Hill Road have offered Parks & Rec the use of ½ of the building. They have renters for the other half of the space who will have their own entrance. We need to go to the BOF/BOS for approval and also look into grant money. We need to let them know ASAP so that they can move forward. There has been discussion with Public Works about a possible split on with a trade for mowing, plowing and heat/electricity. Having access to this facility will allow programs to run during the day, and on holidays and weekends.

Christmas ornament ideas: Harry's, town Christmas tree or the Airline Trail. A decision needs to be made by the end of the week in order for the ornaments to be ready on time.

Sports Leagues: T. Quinn shared with the commission the current endorsement documents to be reviewed and discussed in November. We would like to steer clear of the term "endorsement".

Citizens Comments: A representative from Colchester Cougars (football) asked about getting gym time at one of the schools for practice. This is due to the EEE policy that some parents are upset about as it cuts into practice time. Football plays are limited due to space. T.Quinn asked her to provide dates and times and she will see what she can do.

8:00 Motion to adjourn N. Kaplan, Second by B. Kniska. All in favor