

Burrillville Recreation Commission

RE: Minutes, September 17, 2007

Present: Cheri Hall, Director Al Low

Kurt Schatz, Chair Juliette Lopez-Recinos

Al Gerew, Vice Chair L. Kevin McDonald

Alice Lavigne, Secretary

Susan Sgambato (Alternate Member)

Dave Marcotte

Michael Karmozyn-Town Council Liaison

Absent: -----

Excused: -----

Guests: Kevin Fox, President of the Burrillville Youth Basketball Association, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Barn, Billy and Carla Guilbault and Al Carlow.

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Kurt Schatz, Chair, at the Burrillville Parks and Recreation Offices, 92 North Main Street, Pascoag, R.I.

Minutes of August 14, 2007 Regular Meeting were accepted. Motion to accept made by Dave Marcotte. Seconded by Juliette

Lopez-Recinos. Motion passed 6-0.

Correspondence:

Nathan Desautels-Spring Lake amphitheatre

The Director requested moving this item to Old Business under Spring Lake Beach.

Kurt Schatz questioned if the letters for Recreation Commission reappointments were received by the Director.

Good & Welfare:

Mrs. Barn reported that she has lived on Mowry Street for 58 years and owns over the railroad tracks. Someone had told her of a bike path and a train that might be put on the railroad tracks. She would like to know why the nearby property owners have not been contacted.

The Director reported knowledge of the clearing of land to access the Barnes property that was purchased by the town. The Director spoke with the Town Manager and it is understood that a public hearing with the property owners would be announced before any proposal for the property goes forward and easements would have to be investigated.

Dave Marcotte stated his understanding is that at one time everyone

who owned property along the railroad would have given an easement to the railroad as part of their deed. He confirmed a registered letter would have to be sent to the property owners before anything could be done. Juliette Lopez-Recinos confirmed that the Recreation Commission has not been involved in this recent purchase. The purchase was handled by Town Planner Tom Kravitz as stated in the local papers.

The Director reported she had been requested to get appraisals of the lots in question and the information was turned over the Town Manager. The information was then forwarded to Town Planner Tom Kravitz. Dave Marcotte reported the Recreation Commission was interested in open space in that area and investigating how to gain access to that open space for fields etc.

Dave Marcotte reported that approximately three years ago the Recreation Commission was trying to be involved with the train and a walking path at the property but have not been apprised of any further information since. The train was to be used as a tool for teaching students. There was no plan for the property to be utilized as an access for other development.

Al Carlow stated that any property owner within a wetlands alteration within 200 feet of the altered wetlands has to be notified. The Director stated that the Town Manager has stated any plans will follow public process regarding any construction. Right now they are just clearing

the land for the previous owner. Barnes Concrete, to gain access to the gravel on the property as part of the agreement.

Billy Guilbault questioned the Recreation Commission's feelings toward the Railroad or a walking/bike path. The Director stated the Recreation Commission's focus was on a walking/bike path as a passive use. The commission just heard a presentation on a proposed railroad where it would be a private venture as a tourist attraction as a museum. The Recreation Commission was never contacted regarding their opinion on this current matter.

A motion for a memo from the Recreation Commission to the Planning Department and Town Manager be sent regarding the residents voicing their concerns before the Recreation Commission at this meeting to voice their concerns by Juliette Lopez-Recinos. Seconded by Alice Lavigne. Motion passed 6-0.

It was recommended that the concerned property owners try to get on a Town Council Agenda to discuss this issue. The Director will contact the residents in attendance with any updates.

The Director reported that at the Town Council meeting there was a Dog Waste ordinance being recommended. Juliette Lopez-Recinos alerted the Director that in Connecticut they have signs that state "No Dogs Allowed". Currently we have signs that state "Clean up after your dogs". There is a major problem at Freedom Park, Hauser Field,

Branch River Park and now the new football field. The Town Manager was contacted and stated that new signs stating “No Dogs Allowed” should be installed. Permission for Frisbee throwing to dogs is not allowed on our fields or in any of our parks. This group was told to contact the school regarding any availability behind the middle school.

Old Business:

Burrillville Youth Basketball Association

Kevin Fox stated he agrees with a lot of what was questioned and stated. He assured the commission that any monies spent has been documented and can forward the information. Kevin does not disperse the town appropriation. It reverts back to the School Department for gymnasium usage fees. The town appropriation is less than what is needed to cover the gym fees. Consequently, this supplemented with registration fees which are deposited into the checking account. Kevin stated a roster of coaches can be submitted and everyone has submitted to a BCI check since they are coaches in other sports. There were no coaches this year who required coaches training but approximately 12 coaches received training the previous year.

Al Low stated it is not a question of how Kevin is doing things but are asking for documentation since this is public information. Kevin

stated he is tired and not getting the support he needs to run the youth basketball league. Kevin stated that every child should be afforded one hour of practice time per week and has been impossible to get the gym time needed to provide this. Kevin went into detail about problems regarding gym usage.

The Director stated that youth basketball has gotten more and more gym time each year.

Kevin stated a list of coaches can be submitted to the Recreation Commission for contact to be made to see if anyone would like to volunteer to assist in running the league.

Kevin questioned why the Parks and Recreation Department can't relay league information when parents call. The Director stated that the department can't be offering this for one league and not all and the department does not have the staff to keep track of each leagues schedules etc. If the department has a press release to give information to callers, it would do so. Otherwise, the league contact information is given out.

Kevin questioned the availability of gyms due to lack of communication with the school personnel. The Director reported that the school personnel were questioned why they had not responded to the basketball leagues requests for gym use time. They stated they resented the fact that they were being contacted constantly. Kevin stated he had never talked with the school personnel directly.

Kevin stated that there is an interest in the town for basketball and the league is now up to a 300 person league. When he had it turned over to him 12 years ago there was no money, cancelled checks, no coaches. Now there is all the equipment to run a 300 person league, \$1,000 in the bank and a coaches list ready to go which is a success. Kevin stated all he needs is one hour per league. The Director stated that maybe each age group should handle there own requests to take some burden off Kevin. Kevin responded that the point was being missed. He requested instead that the school department be contacted to request what gym time is available. Once that available gym time is determined then it can be given out to the coaches. Kevin stated he doesn't do it by himself, one individual runs each division. All Kevin reported he does is collect the registrations, make the deposits, order the t-shirts and pays the bills. The league is not as competitive as other leagues are. It runs from October until March and there is no banquet to just give the kids an opportunity to play basketball. The only issue the availability of gym time to allow for the one hour for practice for each age group. Since the games are played on Saturday, the cost is almost \$5,000 but during the week it is free. If paying \$5,000, why doesn't basketball get first choice during the week gym time? Kevin reported that soccer had first choice years ago for gym time over basketball. Kurt Schatz, who was involved in soccer at that time, disagreed with this point. It was offered to be shared time 50/50 and basketball said no to this solution and the next year basketball tried to have soccer removed completely. Dave Marcotte stated he was involved in basketball at the time also and he

had fought to get basketball more time.

Juliette Lopez-Recinos questioned what needs to be determined at this meeting. Al Low stated he saw two issues, the first being that the necessary documentation has to be submitted to the Director and secondly work on requests for gym time. The Director stated that a governing committee also had to be organized. L. Kevin McDonald, who assisted last year, stated that all of the coaches might have completed the NYSCA training and submitted a background check forms but the assistants might not have. Al Gerew, who was previously President of the Burrillville Junior Hockey League, stated that what is being asked of basketball is being asked of all leagues.

Kevin Fox stated he does not want to be President of the Burrillville Youth Basketball League anymore because of the problems of gym usage times. Dave Marcotte stated that open time in the gyms is necessary for emergency scheduling. Kevin Fox recommended scheduling a meeting of coaches to alert them of the need of someone to take over as President of the League. Kevin Fox stated he will call all his coaches to set up a meeting possibly at the Parks and Recreation Office or the high school and submit the required paperwork. The Director recommended two names be on the checking account.

Sub-committee report

The Director reported nothing new at this point.

Spring Lake Beach

The Spring Lake Beach financial report from May through September was shared with the commission. The Director reported that this year's profits were only \$4,000 less than last year since last year we had a heat wave in July. This year the recreation hall rentals increased from \$6,000 to \$10,000 but group attendance decreased. Season resident passes increased slightly also. The problem with the bees affected attendance.

Nathan Desautel who is working towards his Eagle Scout badge has proposed the constructing of an amphitheatre as part of the Spring Lake Beach Campground. The Director met with Mike Gingell of the Harrisville Fire Department to assure codes are followed.

A motion was made by L. Kevin McDonald to approve the concept from Nathan Desautel for the construction of the new amphitheatre as part of the Spring Lake Beach Campground. Seconded by Alice Lavigne. Motion passed 6-0.

Bicentennial DVD

Due to time constraints, the Director recommended the Bicentennial DVD be shown at the next Recreation Commission meeting. The

DVD's are available at the Parks and Recreation office for \$5 each, which is what the cost was to copy and package them.

A motion was made by Al Gerew to table the watching of the Bicentennial DVD until next meeting. Seconded by L. Kevin McDonald. Motion passed 6-0.

Conservation Commission

The Director reported on the joint workshop meeting with the Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission and the Town Council. Conservation Commission member Steve Rawson requested a joint meeting on Wednesday, September 26, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. between the Recreation Commission and the Conservation Commission. Al Low requested a meeting notice reminder be sent to the Recreation Commission. The Director will review the 5-year CIP Plan in preparation for the meeting.

Reappointment to Recreation Commission

Three letters were received stating Alice Lavigne, Juliette Lopez-Recinos, and Al Gerew are up for reappointment to the Recreation Commission.

A motion by L. Kevin McDonald to recommend the reappointments of Alice Lavigne, Juliette Lopez-Recinos and Al Gerew to the Recreation

Commission. Seconded by Al Low. Motion passed 6-0.

Snakes Alive Road Race

The Director reported the Snakes Alive Road Race is Sunday, October 7, 2007 at 11:30 a.m. (walkers at 10:30 a.m.) at the Bank of America. Volunteers are being requested. A committee meeting is this Thursday with Recreation Commission member Alice Lavigne volunteering on the committee and has been helpful in seeking donations. Donations have been down this year. The goal amount is \$1,000 to \$1,500 profit to apply towards the match for the State of RI Department of Environmental Historic grant for the Shippie Bridge Park Project. The Duck Race already raised \$1,200 with the Lions towards the \$2,700 total match needed. The grant and the Eagle Scout project would have to be extended until 2008 due to the Shippie Bridge replacement.

White Mill Park Project-Eagle Scout

All the railings have been repainted and the trail has been fixed with a plaque to be made about the history of the park as part of another Eagle Scout's project. The benches and foot bridges are also in need of repair.

New Business:

Branch River Lights

Two quotes have been received with a third being forwarded in the near future for the needed light repairs at Branch River Park track.

Doors Recreation Center

Two quotes have been received with a third to be forwarded for two new doors at the Recreation Center in the kitchen and the double doors near the old office.

A new roof for the Recreation Center will be part of this year's CIP requests. The Director stated there is monies available in the Recreation Center account of cover this expense. The building qualifies for CDBG grant funds also.

Part-time Employee

Cheryl MacColl was hired as the new part-time administrative aide for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Winter Bugle

The submission for the Winter Bugle was sent.

Burrillville Extended Care

Judy Lopez-Recinos will have to be reappointed as liaison to the Burrillville Extended Care Board of Directors following reappointment to the Recreation Commission.

Burrillville Youth Basketball Association

Commission members requested a letter be sent to Kevin Fox requesting information to be submitted to the Recreation office by the 24th of September and request made to advise commission of any meeting that he may set up with the coaches. L. Kevin McDonald made the motion. Seconded by Al Low. Motion passed 6-0.

If documentation not submitted, funding for the Burrillville Youth Basketball Association and facility use would no longer be sanctioned by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Meeting Adjourned: Motion made L. Kevin McDonald. Seconded by Al Gerew. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m. Motion Passed 6-0.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 9, 2007, 6:30 p.m., Burrillville Parks and Recreation Offices, 92 North Main Street, Pascoag, RI 02859

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