

Burrillville

Recreation Commission

RE: Minutes, March 14, 2011

Present: Cheri Hall, Director Timothy Pratt

Al Gerew, Chair Al Low

Juliette Lopez-Recinos-Vice Chair

Joshua Steere, Alternate

Kevin Mazzarella, Secretary

Stephen Rawson, Burrillville Town Council Liaison

Absent: None

Excused: Dave Marcotte and Alice Lavigne

Guests: Pam Etheridge and Chris Duhamel

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

Motion to accept minutes of February 14, 2011 regular meeting by Al Low. Seconded by Juliette Lopez-Recinos. Motion passed 6-0.

Correspondence:

Al Gerew announced correspondence received by the Director from the Rhode Island Recreation and Parks Association regarding the Director's induction into the Rhode Island Parks and Recreation Hall of Fame. The award will be presented at the annual Awards Banquet at the Rhode Island Recreation and Parks Association Conference scheduled for Friday, March 18, 2011 at Roger Williams University, Bristol, RI.

The commission congratulated Director Cheri Hall for receiving this award. Carol Conway, Kelly Cournoyer and Lisa Nault will also be attending the conference including the informational workshops. Town Manager Mike Wood will also be attending the Awards Banquet.

Good & Welfare:

Pam Etheridge and Chris Duhamel were in attendance representing their Lacrosse League regarding a field use permit submitted to utilize the Branch River Park soccer field. They requested five game dates from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on 4/14/11, 4/19/11, 5/2/11, 5/9/11 and 5/19/11.

The Director voiced concern due to the middle school baseball, middle school softball and high school track teams already scheduled after school to utilize the Branch River complex during these same dates and times as the lacrosse requests. Between 5:30

p.m. and 6:00 p.m. the recreational baseball and softball teams will arrive. The overlap of parking and traffic and the damage by the cleats on the track to access the soccer field to play their lacrosse games is a concern. Currently lacrosse is a club and not a school team. Field use fees would be imposed for the team comprised of both Burrillville and North Smithfield students. The Director stated the town has a lack of field space to accommodate all the current Burrillville teams. The construction to renovate the tennis courts at Branch River Park will also be taking place.

Lacrosse had put in a request two years ago to utilize the track field and was denied by the commission for these reasons. It was recommended for lacrosse to possibly utilize the lower fields adjacent to the high school softball fields. Al Low stated he thinks lacrosse should be allowed to play on the Branch River soccer field and if damage is done then it will emphasize the need for more fields in town.

Motion to wait for more information from the school regarding utilizing school fields before the commission makes a decision to allow lacrosse to play on the Branch River Soccer field made by Juliette Lopez-Recinos. Seconded by Al Low. Director stated since this topic was not on the Meeting Agenda, she is not sure if a vote can be permitted. It was decided a vote will not be taken at this time.

The Director will e-mail the commission once the school facilities manager is contacted regarding lacrosse utilizing school fields. Lacrosse will then be contacted regarding the permit status.

The representatives from lacrosse left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Rawson stated lacrosse should be able to utilize the Branch River Park field since that is what the fields are there for. Kevin Mazzarella agreed and will need to be repaired as fields usually do.

Freedom Park

Mr. Rawson reported that the flags at Freedom Park are in disrepair and the flagpole needs to be painted. He also stated an e-mail has been sent to the Town Manager regarding the recent closing of the access to beneath the waterfall. Access has always been allowed for canoes and fishing in the past and a suggestion was made to install a childproof gate with “pass at your own risk” signage in preparation of the opening of fishing season in April. The conservation commission received a grant to install a canoe launch at Freedom Park but instead the launch was installed at Wallum Lake.

Recreation Commission Project Priority List

Mr. Rawson would like an item added the Recreation Commission Meeting Agenda scheduled for May 2011 regarding a project priority list the commission would like completed in the near future for the Parks & Recreation Department.

Ornaments

Al Low stated he has some of the Burrillville Town ornaments to be displayed at the next Farmer's Market meet and greet event. A discussion took place regarding the Farmer's Market applying for a grant to move near the new library to allow for a larger area with water and electricity.

Old Business:

Adopt-A-Spot

The Director reported nothing new to report at this time.

Ornament

See above under "Good and Welfare".

Spring Lake

The Director met with a representative of Citizens Bank regarding the possibility of the installation of an ATM machine at the Spring Lake Beach Facility. Citizens Bank offers two options. The first option being the town would load the ATM as needed and split any fees of \$1 each per transaction collected from the patrons utilizing the ATM machine. The second option is the ATM Company would load the machine and the town would receive 40 to 50 cents per transaction. This would be a one year contract and installed seasonally.

The Director reported that after doing research, the Spring Lake

Beach Facility would not have to charge sales tax on items sold in the proposed store. This is due to the Spring Lake Beach Facility utilizing any profits to benefit children and programming. A ruling was received from the State of Rhode Island Division of Taxation for the Burrillville School Department regarding this issue a few years ago. Kevin Mazzearella did state that a new proposed ruling from the State of Rhode Island has been publicized recently regarding this issue. The Director is still awaiting approval to go forward with the Spring Lake Beach store. Numerous vendors have been contacted regarding merchandise pricing for the proposed store.

The Director reported an abundance of applications have been received for Spring Lake Beach employment.

Burrillville Extended Care will be utilizing the Spring Lake Beach Recreation Hall only one day per week this summer to lower busing costs. Consequently, the hall will also be available during the week this upcoming summer season for rentals.

Budgets (CIP & Operating)

The Director reported nothing new to report at this time.

The Public Hearing is scheduled for March 23, 2011.

Skate Park

Department of Public Works Director Jeff McCormick has been

requested by the Town Manager to cost out the financials for the Skate Park relocation project including the purchase of the land from the State of Rhode Island for the 12,000 square feet for the skate area and parking area but would be 65,000 square feet including the trail area. It is still being decided which footage option to go with. The grading and asphalt for the skate park area is approximately \$3,000. The State of Rhode Island has estimated the 12,000 square feet for the skate park and parking areas to be approximately \$9,600. A twelve foot fence has been proposed. The fence company recommended an eight foot fence. The commission stated the 12,000 would be sufficient for the skate park and parking area and they are not interested in the additional trail area footage.

It was reported that due to the Department of Public Works dumping snow at both the Louis Bleiweis Memorial Park and Freedom Park, the surrounding fences are in need of repair.

Egg Hunt

The Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 16th at 11:30 a.m. Handouts regarding the event were given to the commission with an invitation to attend. An employee at Burrillville Extended Care has volunteered to play the Easter Bunny since commission member Juliette Lopez-Recinos will not be available this year.

New Business:

Relay for Life

The Zoning Board approved Relay for Life to take place June 24th and 25th at Branch River Park and continue unless any problems are reported or if the current Parks & Recreation Director retires.

Burrillville Earth Day

Earth Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 23rd (rain date April 30th) with coffee and donuts for the kick off at 8:30 a.m. at the Town Garage. Earth Day Chairperson Dana Gould from the Burrillville Lions Club reported Coastal Recycling will be donating the shirts. The commission was invited to participate. Department of Public Works will provide a truck and two employees to assist with the clean up and transporting tables from the Recreation Center.

Amended By Laws

A copy of the amended By Laws were e-mailed to the commission with copies available at the meeting.

Spring Ceramics

Spring Ceramics flyers were sent through the elementary schools and shared with the commission.

Floral Workshop

Floral Workshop flyers were shared with the commission regarding the April 7th program. The seniors enjoy these workshops.

A copy of the Spring Newsletter that went out to the elementary schools was shared with the commission.

Recreation Capital Account

Discussion took place regarding the Recreation Capital issues and questions regarding the decision process of accepting land or funds from property developers and how decisions to expend these funds from the Recreation Capital Account are made. The Director shared a memo sent to the Town Manager dated February 15, 2011 regarding the commission's concerns regarding these issues and the process for the commission to follow going forward. Mr. Rawson stated he has also requested information regarding the Recreation Capital Account process.

The commission decided to have Kevin Mazarella and Al Gerew comprise a letter to Town Planner Tom Kravitz requesting his attendance at the May Recreation Commission meeting to review the current walking trail/bike path plans and any updates he may have on the Recreation Capital Account.

Meeting Adjourned: Motion made Al Low. Seconded by Juliette Lopez-Recinos. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. Motion Passed 6-0.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 11, 2011 at 6:30 p.m., Burrillville Parks & Recreation Office, 92 North Main Street, Pascoag, RI 02859

**Recorded by
Carol L. Conway**

Administrative Aide

Burrillville Parks & Recreation Department

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