

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

Tuesday July 22, 2014 @ 7:00 PM

Open Meeting in the Town Council Chambers

4540 South County Trail

Charlestown, RI 02813

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The July 22, 2014 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present at the meeting was Vice Chairperson Cheryl Dowdell, Commissioners Ed Vazquez, Jodi Frank, Julia Beasley, Keith DeMerchant, Richard Horstmann, Sunny Cummings, Donna Deyorio and David Currier. Parks and Recreation Director Jay Primiano and Program Manager Vicky Hilton were also present at the meeting.

Absent was Town Council Liaison Paula Andersen and Commission members Ryan Campbell, Susie Fehrmann and Tom Nowell. Parks and Recreation Chairperson Tim Quillen was also absent.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes – June 24, 2014:

Richard Horstmann motioned to approve the June 24, 2014 Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes. Sunny Cummings seconded the motion.

Cheryl Dowdell, Ed Vazquez, Jodi Frank, Julia Beasley, Keith DeMerchant, Donna Deyorio and David Currier approved the motion and the motion was passed unanimously.

4. COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC:

There were no comments from the public.

5. TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT:

There was no Town Council Liaison report.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Senior/Community Center Usage by Boy Scouts Troop 15:

Ed Vazquez recused himself citing a conflict of interest stating that he is the parent of a Scout.

Jim Dzwil, Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 15 read the following statement:

On behalf of Troop 15 Charlestown Boy Scouts I would like to apologize for the issues that have brought us here tonight. They should not have happened and they have not happened twice. That they happened at all was due to a lack of adult supervision and steps are being taken to have more parental involvement. The Troop has put in place a new accountability form naming scouts and parents who will help the Scoutmaster check out the building before leaving because obviously I am missing some things. It would be done on a monthly rotation for greater accountability. Right now we do it weekly and it was just the scouts on a cleanup patrol. It will be more involved. Adults will be in pairs or greater scattered in rooms within the Community Center and scouts will not be allowed in the kitchen. Again I would like to apologize for these issues.

Those are the problem issues and what we are doing to fix the problems. Let's not forget the good things the Troop and its members do for the Town and community. We have fixed the screen room at the Community Center, rescreened it, built birdhouses, spread woodchips, cleaned gardens, helped out as needed at the New Year's Even bonfire, Christmas Lighting, Harvest Festival and scouts have eagle projects that have cleared trails, fixed a variety of things around Town, and a scout is currently working on an ADA compliant playground at Ninigret Park. The Troop is a representation of the Town of Charlestown and future leaders. Let us show them we can fix the problems and move forward.

Mr. Dzwil explained that the pilot light incident occurred following a cooking badge demonstration when two burners were left on accidentally and turned off. Mr. Dzwil believed the gas smell was a result of the burners he turned off and was unaware more were on without being lit.

Mr. Dzwil stated there were approximately thirty-nine (39) scouts in the program between the ages of twelve (12) and seventeen (17), and that any broken items would be reported and replaced if necessary.

Director Primiano questioned why the reaction didn't occur with any of the prior incidences.

Mr. Dzwil replied that the same incident did not happen twice.

Commission member Richard Horstmann was in support of a change in leadership before allowing the scouts to use the center again.

Diane Quirk, a volunteer with the Boy Scout Troop and mom to three (3) Scouts spoke about the leadership in the Troop and the current situation with supervision in the Troop.

Jodi Frank motioned to place the Troop on probation for three (3) months, to require a more detailed list of things to be checked by the Troop, to perform a work detail assigned by the Community Center Director and for the Troop to follow up with the Community Center Director after each meeting. Sunny Cummings seconded the motion.

Ed Vazquez recused himself from the vote and Richard Horstmann abstained.

Cheryl Dowdell, Julia Beasley, Keith DeMerchant, Donna Deyorio and David Currier approved the motion. The motion passed.

- b. Recommendation to appoint a Parks and Recreation Commission member to the Friends of Ninigret Park Subcommittee:

Vice Chairperson and past Chairperson of the Friends of Ninigret Park Subcommittee Cheryl Dowdell explained the creation and mission of the Friends of Ninigret Park Subcommittee.

Richard Horstmann motioned to place the item 6. b. Recommendation to appoint a Parks and Recreation Commission member to the Friends of Ninigret Park Subcommittee on the August Agenda. Julia Beasley seconded the motion.

Cheryl Dowdell, Ed Vazquez, Jodi Frank, Keith DeMerchant, Sunny Cummings, Donna Deyorio and David Currier were in favor the motion. All members present were in favor the motion passed unanimously.

c. **New Program – Adult Tennis:**

Richard Horstmann motioned to accept the Tennis Program. Jodi Frank seconded the motion. Cheryl Dowdell, Ed Vazquez, Julia Beasley, Keith DeMerchant, Sunny Cummings, Donna Deyorio and David Currier were in favor. All commission members were in favor the motion passed unanimously.

d. **New Program – Theater Program:**

It was noted that the proposed program was going to be run by Anne Mulhall, a current member of the Friends of Ninigret Park Subcommittee, which is a Subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Commission member Jodi Frank mentioned there may be a conflict with a program instructor serving on a commission and that the conflict is pending clarification.

Jodi Frank motioned to approve the Theater Program pending clarification with the Town Charter. Donna Deyorio seconded the motion.

Cheryl Dowdell, Ed Vazquez, Julia Beasley, Keith DeMerchant, Richard Horstmann, Sunny Cummings and David Currier were in favor. All members were in favor the motion passed unanimously.

7. Old Business

a. **Tree Dedication by Chuck Wentworth for Avery Scholl, “Chili Brother” at the August 24th Summer Concert:**

Sunny Cummings motioned to approve the tree planting in Ninigret Park dedicated in memory of Avery Scholl. Ed Vazquez seconded the motion.

Cheryl Dowdell, Jodi Frank, Julia Beasley, Keith DeMerchant, Richard Horstmann, Donna Deyorio and David Currier were in favor. All members present were in favor the motion passed unanimously.

8. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

a. **Flag Football Organization Field Usage Application – Ninigret Park – Fall 2014:**

Chris Catanzaro, a representative with the Chariho Flag Football League presented the application for field usage in Ninigret Park by the league. Mr. Catanzaro stated there was a code of conduct for players, coaches and referees. The program has been running in Narragansett for three (3) years and has one hundred sixty (160) participants from

grades three (3) through eight (8). Each team consists of five (5) players who play another team of five (5). The League tries to maximize playing time for each participant.

He explained that the organization was a for profit organization because referees and the League Director were paid positions. The fee is \$135.00 per participant.

Richard Horstmann motioned to approve the application for the Chariho Flag Football League. Jodi Frank seconded the motion.

Cheryl Dowdell, Ed Vazquez, Julia Beasley, Keith DeMerchant, Sunny Cummings, Donna Deyorio and David Currier were in favor. All commission members were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Community Center Rental – Birthday Party:

Richard Horstmann motioned to approve the Community Center Rental Application. Sunny Cummings seconded the motion.

Cheryl Dowdell, Ed Vazquez, Julia Beasley, Keith DeMerchant, Jodi Frank, Donna Deyorio and David Currier were in favor. All commission members were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Park Rental – Kimball Pavilion – Family Reunion:

Ed Vazquez motioned to approve the Kimball Pavilion rental. Jodi Frank seconded the motion.

Cheryl Dowdell, Sunny Cummings, Julia Beasley, Keith DeMerchant, Richard Horstmann, Donna Deyorio and David Currier were in favor. All commission members were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

9. SPECIAL PROJECTS

a. Tree Steward's Report:

Tree Steward Jodi Frank reported that seven (7) sycamores were lost and that on August 25th volunteers from Roger Williams University would be helping out in the park.

10. PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORT

a. Director's Report:

Sunny Cummings motioned to approve the July 2014 Director's Report. Richard Horstmann seconded the motion. Cheryl Dowdell, Ed Vazquez, Jodi Frank, Julia Beasley, Keith DeMerchant, Donna Deyorio and David Currier were in favor. All members were in favor the motion passed unanimously.

11. PROGRAM MANAGER REPORT

a. Program Manager's Report:

Julia Beasley motioned to approve the July Program Manager's Report. Ed Vazquez seconded the motion. Cheryl Dowdell, Jodi Frank, Keith DeMerchant, Richard Horstmann, Sunny Cummings, Donna Deyorio and David Currier were in favor. All commission members present were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no Committee reports.

13. COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Cheryl Dowdell spoke of going to the next Town Council meeting as a person wishing to be heard to bring forward the center and park approval process.

Ms. Dowdell mentioned the need for a kiosk or sign at the entrance to East Beach Road and US Route 1 that will advise motorists when the parking area for Blue Shutters Beach is full.

Richard Horstmann reported on the success of the Bike Path Ad Hoc Committee at the July Town council meeting, the possibility of creating or converting a court for pickle ball and the possibility of a bocce court in Ninigret Park.

14. NEXT MEETING DATE – TUESDAY August 26, 2014 AT 7:00 PM at the Town Hall’s Town Council Chambers, 4540 South County Trail

15. ADJOURNMENT:

Ed Vazquez motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 PM. Julia Beasley seconded the motion. Cheryl Dowdell, Jodi Frank, Keith DeMerchant, Richard Horstmann, Sunny Cummings, Donna Deyorio and David Currier were in favor. All commission members present were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted By: Rebecca Crosby

The public is welcome to any meeting of the Town of Charlestown Parks and Recreation Commission.

If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captions) is needed or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please contact (711-364-1240) at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting.