

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

Tuesday September 23, 2014 @ 7:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

| Attendee Name | Title | Status |
|----------------------|--------------|---------|
| Timothy Quillen | Chairman | Present |
| Cheryl Dowdell | Vice Chair | Present |
| Julia Beasley | Commissioner | Absent |
| Ryan Campbell | Commissioner | Present |
| Sonita K. Cummings | Commissioner | Present |
| David Currier | Commissioner | Present |
| Keith D. DeMerchant | Commissioner | Present |
| Donna M. Deyorio | Commissioner | Present |
| Susie Fehrmann | Commissioner | Absent |
| Jodi Frank | Commissioner | Present |
| Richard E. Horstmann | Commissioner | Present |
| Thomas L. Nowell | Commissioner | Absent |
| Edward Vazquez | Commissioner | Present |

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

b. August 26, 2014 Parks & Recreation Draft Minutes

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| RESULT: | APPROVED [7 TO 0] |
| MOVER: | Edward Vazquez, Commissioner |
| SECONDER: | Jodi Frank, Commissioner |
| AYES: | Campbell, Currier, DeMerchant, Frank, Horstmann, Vazquez, Quillen |
| ABSTAIN: | Cummings, Deyorio, Dowdell |
| ABSENT: | Beasley, Fehrmann, Nowell |

3. COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

4. TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

There was no Town Council Liaison Report.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Colors for a Cause:

Parks and Recreation Commission Vice Chairperson Cheryl Dowdell commended Mr. Dussault on his achieving 501c3 status for his Colors for a Cause nonprofit business.

Mr. Dussault thanked Evelyn Smith and the Town of Charlestown for their roles in his program. He also thanked the Carolina Fire Station for raising money. Mr. Dussault reiterated that funds were raised in South County and distributed to South County residents in need of his service. He mentioned that the truck was born and raised in Charlestown three (3) years ago.

Sandra Puchalski spoke towards the organization emphasizing that it is a charitable organization and thanked Mr. Dussault for his efforts. Ms. Puchalski informed the Commission of the application process and where to get that information. She continued to state that the organization can not only help children, but adults in need as well and that the organization relies totally on volunteers.

Mr. Dussault reiterated that all funds raised go directly to the recipients.

The Commission motioned to recognize Colors for a Cause attainment of 501c3 status.

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| RESULT: | MOTION TO RECOGNIZE STATUS [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Cheryl Dowdell, Vice Chair |
| SECONDER: | Jodi Frank, Commissioner |
| AYES: | Cummings, Campbell, Currier, DeMerchant, Deyorio, Frank, Horstmann, Vazquez, Quillen, Dowdell |
| ABSENT: | Beasley, Fehrmann, Nowell |

b. Extension of Community Garden Lease:

Director of Parks and Recreation Jay Primiano introduced the Community Garden and the Johnnycake Center of Westerly.

It was noted that the lease mirrors the previous lease.

Elizabeth Pasqualini, Executive Director of Johnnycake Center asked if there were any questions. Commissioner Horstmann asked if the Community Garden wanted the weigh station. Ms. Pasqualini replied that the Community Garden did want the weigh station.

Commissioner Frank questioned the name of the garden being the Charlestown Community Garden, when the produce was going to the Westerly Johnnycake Center, and if a renaming was or could be considered.

Ms. Pasqualini replied that the Johnnycake Center services the Chariho area as well.

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| RESULT: | APPROVED FOR TC CONSIDERATION [UNANIMOUS] Next: 10/14/2014 7:00 PM |
| MOVER: | Richard E. Horstmann, Commissioner |
| SECONDER: | Sonita K. Cummings, Commissioner |
| AYES: | Cummings, Campbell, Currier, DeMerchant, Deyorio, Frank, Horstmann, Vazquez, Quillen, Dowdell |
| ABSENT: | Beasley, Fehrmann, Nowell |

c. Construction of a Community Garden Weigh Station:

Elizabeth Pasqualini, Executive Director of Johnnycake Center spoke towards the weigh station and the role it would serve in the Community Garden. The weigh station would be used to provide sun protection to harvested produce and to weigh the produce. Ms. Pasqualini mentioned that it was a joint venture between the Johnnycake Center, Charlestown Community Garden and the Chariho Rotary Club. The Chariho VOTEC would also be involved in the project.

The building will be one hundred forty (140) square feet and measure ten by fourteen (10 X 14). It will be located in front of the hoop houses.

Director Primiano recommended the Garden have communication with the Planning and Building/Zoning Department.

Ms. Pasqualini mentioned that the District Matching Funds were from the District Rotary 7950.

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| RESULT: | APPROVED FOR TC CONSIDERATION [UNANIMOUS] Next: 10/14/2014 7:00 PM |
| MOVER: | Cheryl Dowdell, Vice Chair |
| SECONDER: | Edward Vazquez, Commissioner |
| AYES: | Cummings, Campbell, Currier, DeMerchant, Deyorio, Frank, Horstmann, Vazquez, Quillen, Dowdell |
| ABSENT: | Beasley, Fehrmann, Nowell |

d. Ways to Make Large Scale Events in Ninigret Park "Greener":

Commissioner Frank mentioned that she had noticed waste at the Festivals. She asked if there was a way to request vendors to utilize recyclable plates and forks and compost food scraps in one area. It was noted that other venues have similar requirements and that it may not be new to promoters.

Director Primiano noted that the Seaside Classic Event already follows some of the practices, including utilizing recyclable materials.

The Commission discussed that the requirements could not just be added to the contract, support must be provided and should be discussed with other organizations and promoters.

Commissioner Horstmann requested a list of proposed requirements.

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| RESULT: | NO VOTE TAKEN |
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6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Recommendation to Appoint Parks and Recreation Member to Friends of Ninigret Park:

Chairperson Tim Quillen asked if anyone would like to join the Friends of Ninigret Park Subcommittee. Commissioner Ed Vazquez stated he would like to join Friends of Ninigret Park.

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| RESULT: | APPROVED FOR TC CONSIDERATION [UNANIMOUS] Next: 10/14/2014 7:00 PM |
| MOVER: | Jodi Frank, Commissioner |
| SECONDER: | Cheryl Dowdell, Vice Chair |
| AYES: | Cummings, Campbell, Currier, DeMerchant, Deyorio, Frank, Horstmann, Vazquez, Quillen, Dowdell |
| ABSENT: | Beasley, Fehrmann, Nowell |

7. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

a. Discussion and Potential Action - 2014 Santa Paws at the Senior/Community Center Event: Santa Paws 2014 Event Dates: December 6, 2014 Camping: N/A Insurance: Town Insurance Fee: Fee Waived

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| RESULT: | APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Cheryl Dowdell, Vice Chair |
| SECONDER: | Richard E. Horstmann, Commissioner |
| AYES: | Cummings, Campbell, Currier, DeMerchant, Deyorio, Frank, Horstmann, Vazquez, Quillen, Dowdell |
| ABSENT: | Beasley, Fehrmann, Nowell |

8. SPECIAL PROJECTS

a. Tree Steward's Report:

Tree Steward Jodi Frank reported that seven (7) trees were lost. It was noted the elm would be arriving shortly, and that the disease resistant Liberty Elm already planted was growing well.

Director Primiano recognized that Roger Williams University sent ten (10) volunteers who helped with mulching and tending the trees.

9. PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

a. September 2014 Director's Report:

It was noted that there was a lot of interest in Adult Golf program and that participants could play per week and did not have to commit to the full dates.

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| RESULT: | APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Richard E. Horstmann, Commissioner |
| SECONDER: | Sonita K. Cummings, Commissioner |
| AYES: | Cummings, Campbell, Currier, DeMerchant, Deyorio, Frank, Horstmann, Vazquez, Quillen, Dowdell |
| ABSENT: | Beasley, Fehrmann, Nowell |

10. PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT

a. September 2014 Program Manager's Report:

The Commission discussed Commission members participating in Fall Events.

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| RESULT: | APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Richard E. Horstmann, Commissioner |
| SECONDER: | Jodi Frank, Commissioner |
| AYES: | Cummings, Campbell, Currier, DeMerchant, Deyorio, Frank, Horstmann, Vazquez, Quillen, Dowdell |
| ABSENT: | Beasley, Fehrmann, Nowell |

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Friends of Ninigret Park Subcommittee:

Commissioner Horstmann noted that the fence and garbage from the Rhythm & Roots Festival was removed quickly.

Commissioner Dowdell mentioned that Friends of Ninigret Park was the big picture fundraiser. She then read the Ordinance pertaining to Friends of Ninigret Park, which was as follows, "care, maintenance and improvements" to the Park. There was discussion around sub groups and designating funds. It was identified that there is already a means for sub groups to receive monies without being associated with Friends of Ninigret Park.

Director Primiano read the Resolution for the Flagpole Gardens noting that there was a resolution for the Flagpole Gardens Organization to receive funds separate from the Friends of Ninigret Park fund.

b. Dog Park Subcommittee Report:

The Santa Paws Event was noted.

12. COMMISSION COMMENTS

Sunny Cummings mentioned that the department was moving along nicely after a busy summer.

Richard Horstmann noted an "A" frame sign was empty at the entrance of the Park.

Jodi Frank encouraged everyone and special groups to participate in the Pumpkin Walk.

13. NEXT MEETING DATE - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2014 AT 7:00 PM IN THE TOWN HALL'S TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 4540 SOUTH COUNTY TRAIL

14. ADJOURNMENT

a. Motion to Adjourn

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| RESULT: | APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] |
| MOVER: | Edward Vazquez, Commissioner |
| SECONDER: | Richard E. Horstmann, Commissioner |
| AYES: | Cummings, Campbell, Currier, DeMerchant, Deyorio, Frank, Horstmann, Vazquez, Quillen, Dowdell |
| ABSENT: | Beasley, Fehrmann, Nowell |

Respectfully Submitted By: Rebecca Crosby

Charlestown, RI

Approved October 28, 2014

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Updated 9/24/2014 3:11 PM