

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, March 26, 2018

3:30 pm

Unity Park Fieldhouse

56 First Street

Turners Falls, MA 01376

Present: Dennis Grader, Chairperson, Barbara Kuklewicz, Vice Chairperson, Albert Cummings, Secretary, Jon Dobosz, Director of Parks & Recreation, Jennifer Peterson, Clerk/Bookkeeper

Guest: Jesse Berry, Ride N’ Dine

Meeting Being Taped

1. 3:38pm Meeting Called to Order

2. 3:39pm Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 26, 2018 ; (Votes May Be Taken)

Motion: Made by Albert Cummings to accept the minutes as written; seconded by Barbara Kuklewicz.

Approved: 3-0

3. 3:40pm Unity Park Vendor Request – Guest - Jesse Berry, Ride N’ Dine

Mr. Berry spoke about his Ride N’ Dine mobile food truck and his interest in having it parked in the Unity Park parking lot for the spring, summer, fall; ending his season at the Pumpkinfest. His wish is to be parked here during the day and at times when the park is at its busiest (mid-day through early evening). His menu would include hamburgers, hotdogs chicken fingers, French fries, ice cream, and beverages. Mr. Berry would be working the truck. He has gone to the Board of Selectman and is licensed to work in public parks and lots. He uses a generator for power. Once he is set up, at a location to be determined once the Commission approves, the Turners Falls Fire Department will inspect his equipment. The inspection is done annually. Jon gave Mr. Berry two dates that he could not set up in our large, main parking lot; April 22, and May 19. He also suggested that he plan to stay through to dusk Monday through Thursday during the Adult softball season. Mr. Berry is interested in helping the department through fundraising; possibly donating proceeds from basketball tournaments, skatepark events and/or adult softball tournaments.

Motion: Barbara Kuklewicz makes the motion to allow Jesse Berry to park his Ride N’ Dine mobile food truck at Unity Park during the spring, summer and early fall at times that Jon supports; seconded by Albert Cummings.

Vote: 3-0

4. 3:50pm Proposed Changes to State Access Regulations and Potential Affect on Facilities

The Massachusetts Architectural Access Board is in the process of updating their standards. There is a proposed change to Section 59.4.1 of 521 Commonwealth Massachusetts Regulations, which stipulates that all loose-fill playground material be converted to what is essentially, pour-in-place surfacing. They are looking to make these areas more accessible in parks and around playground equipment. Jon said that we are currently auditing our play areas to see if we are within standards to what is being proposed, relative to accessible playground units compared to elevated playground units. The most immediate concern is what is being proposed in regards to playground surfacing; they are considering only pour-in-place surfacing in play areas. In our park, this pour-in-place material is the green rubberized material surrounding some, but not all, play units. If this law is instituted, we would be required to remove all loose material (wood fiber chips) and replace with the pour-in-place material. Jon read the letter to the Access Board written on the behalf of the town of Montague, expressing his concern about the cost of such replacement and the safety issue of placing this harder material around equipment that is above ground. Unity Park has several of these higher elevation playground elements,

and the injuries by children falling would be much more significant. Along with these changes, there are also other issues that would be required, such as new/modified picnic tables and modify play units to make sure we have enough ground units available compared to elevated units for children. Jon will go before the Board of Selectmen tonight to talk about this issue. It was recommended that this also be sent to Stan Rosenberg.

Motion: Barbara Kuklewicz makes the motion to accept the letter but with the letter coming from Jon, the Town of Montague, and the Commission, with signatures from all Commission members; seconded by Albert Cummings.

Approved: 3-0

5. 4:05pm Montague Center Park Improvement Project Update

The survey was completed and received 59 responses. The next meeting will be April 4, at 4:30pm at the Montague Center Volunteer Firemen's Association. The meeting will cover the survey results and a plan of action as far as using capital funds for the master plan process with Conway School of Design. Jon was very pleased with the number of response; interest seems very high.

6. 4:10pm Parks & Recreation Director Business

● Monthly Meeting/Event Log

There were no questions.

7. 4:12pm Other Business

●Our EGGstravaganza is scheduled for Saturday, March 31 at 1:00pm at Unity Park. We have 5,000 eggs and the weather looks good.

●Jon met with the Greenfield YMCA's Executive Director and Aquatics Director at their request, concerning the loss of revenue with their aquatics programs, most specifically swim lessons. Jon also expressed concern with the small decrease (approximately 10 swimmers) in our Blue Fish Swim Team. Also, we have not had swim lessons in a few years, mostly due to the fact we cannot find a licensed instructor. The YMCA is proposing we promote their swim lessons in our brochure and they will promote Blue Fish in their brochure. They all agreed that in this county there is an overall lack of youth aquatic knowledge and skills. The YMCA thought if we partnered together that both organizations could benefit. If we were going to bring back swim lessons it would have to be in the summer. Jon wanted the Commission's thoughts about this proposal and discussed issues with this proposal. It was agreed that this is an interesting proposal, but they all felt it was not the right time for it; perhaps down the road.

8. 4:17pm Adjournment

Motion: Made by Barbara Kuklewicz to adjourn; seconded by Albert Cummings.

Approved: 3-0

X _____

Albert Cummings, Secretary Date

or

Signature

Name & Title: _____

Print

Date: _____