

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

3:30 p.m.

Remote Meeting

Present: Dennis Grader, Chairperson, Barbara Kuklewicz, Vice Chairperson, Albert Cummings, Secretary, Jon Dobosz, Director of Parks & Recreation

Guests: Linda Hickman, Director of Libraries

Meeting is being recorded

1. 3:35pm Meeting Called to Order

2. 3:36 pm Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 14, 2021

Motion: Albert Cummings makes a motion to accept the April 14, 2021 minutes; seconded by Dennis Grader.

Approved: 3-0

3. 3:37pm Montague Center Town Hall/Library

Linda Hickman, Director of Libraries, spoke to the commission about the current situation of the Montague Center Town Hall/Library building. This very old building has undergone numerous repairs and requires more for it to continue serving the public. The building is at a point where if a significant amount of money is not spent for needed repairs we may lose the building. Linda did get a preliminary estimate of \$2 million for repairs which does include windows. If the town puts the money into repairs it will need to be handicap accessible, including the second floor; which the Park and Recreation Department is the tenant. Linda feels strongly that the building should be updated but to justify the spending the building needs to increase its usage. Currently the library is open two days a week it would be helpful to add an additional day. Linda says the community would like to see increased library hours. Her thoughts were if the MPRD increased its use of the second floor with programming this would help justify the repairs to the building. Another thought was that outside people/agencies rent the space. Jon reminded the group that the building programming use decreased over the years because of the inaccessibility of the second floor making it very difficult to use. The space is used on occasion by private individuals on a no fee basis. Also there is no heat in that space so that limits its use in the cold months. The Commission agreed with moving forward on how to repair the Montague Town Hall/Library.

4. 4:07pm Sheffield Gymnasium Wall Pads

The wall pads in the Sheffield Elementary school gym are in poor condition and need replacing. The school approach the Park and Recreation Department and offered a 50/50 split on cost. Jon believes total cost would be \$3000-\$3,300; so our costs would be around \$1,700. Our youth basketball program uses the gym and to leave them in this condition could be a safety issue.

Motion: Albert Cummings makes the motion to pay half the cost of the Sheffield gym wall pads; seconded by Barbara Kuklewicz.

Approved: 3-0

5. 4:10pm

Spring Programs Update

Tee Ball, Rookie Baseball and Spring Soccer have begun and are moving along smoothly. Tee ball has 40 participants, Rookie baseball has 15 and soccer 12. Two days ago the Governor did declare a no mask mandate so families will have been notified that masks are no longer required.

There will not be an adult softball league this year as there were not enough teams/players. COVID and the state guidelines may have held people back from participating. This will be the second year of no adult softball and that is concerning as we don't want to lose our umpires

6. 4:15 pm

Summer Programs Update

•**Summer Camp** – With the mask mandate change Jon will be updating his plans. Field trips will be allowed this summer. Jon will advise the Commission of the guidelines set by the Board of Health.

Motion: Barbara Kuklewicz makes the motion to allow Jon to work with the Board of Health and follow their recommendations for COVID regulations as they pertain to Summer Camp; seconded by Dennis Grader.

Approved: 2-0

Abstain: 1

•**Movies in The Park, Skate Nights, etc.** – Suzanne LoManto, Director of River Culture, has been working on the Movies in the Park. Jon is planning to hold two Skate Nights in July and August with the possibility of a third in June.

6. 4:22 pm

FY21 Current Operating Budget & Revolving Fund Balances

We had some operating funds not spent this fiscal year but money not spent this year cannot be carried over to the new fiscal year. Our Revolving fund is beginning to move in the right direction as programs have begun to run.

7. 4:24pm

Parks & Recreation Director's Report

•**Great Falls Apple Corps** –Annie Levin, leader/member of the corps, approached Jon asking if they could use Unity Park as a spot to give away free produce and clothing. Jon is happy to allow them the space. They set up their tables every Saturday afternoons and will use a small area of garage space to store their things.

•**Unity Park Basketball Court & Playground Walkway Project** – Both Jon and Steve Ellis were concerned the time line of this project would run into the summer interfering with camp. So the project bids will be put out in late August or September with October 1 as a deadline.

•**Montague Center Project** – The park is being surveyed by Harold F. Eaton and Associates of Hadley. Jon anticipates they will be submitting their findings in the next three or four weeks. These finding will be given to the Commission and the Park Committee. The Park Committee met yesterday and went over the draft of the project design schedule. After Jon meets with the Zoning Board and the Planning Department over the summer we hope have a public input hearing in September or October. Funding will be difficult for this project as there won't be any grant funding available. We will have to be creative in finding funding. We are receiving donations from private individuals and businesses for ball field improvements which will help.

•**Jon's Life Guard Certification** – Jon asked the Commission if he could let his certification expire. He doesn't believe he can perform the legal physical requirements necessary for the certification.

Motion: Barbara Kuklewicz makes the motion to allow Jon, at his own discretion, to let his life guard certification expire; Albert Cummings seconds the motion.

Approved: 3 - 0

8. 4:40pm

Topics not anticipated in the 48 hour posting requirement

No topics discussed.

9. 4:40pm

Adjournment

Motion: Albert Cummings makes the motion to adjourn; seconded by Barbara Kuklewicz

Approved: 3-0

X _____

Albert Cummings, Secretary Date Or _____

Signature Name & Title: _____

Print: _____

Date: _____