

## **2PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES**

Wednesday, June 15, 2022  
Montague Town Hall Annex  
One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376  
3:30pm

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

**Guest:** Jules Mendoza, The Recorder

**Meeting is being recorded**

**1. 3:31pm Meeting Called to Order**

**2. 3:32pm Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 21, 2022**

Minutes were not available at this time.

**3. 3:32pm Unity Park Basketball Court & Playground Walkway Project Update**

East Coast Sealcoating, Inc from Abington, MA was awarded the project. We are currently coordinating a start date.

**4. 3:34pm Winter Programs Profit/Loss Statements**

**-Open Swim** took a loss of \$605.45, which was less than in previous years.

**-Bluefish** profit this season was \$1,654.60. There were 42 swimmers this year and they had a profitable Swim-a-thon. The league continued with virtual meets this season.

**-American Red Cross Babysitting** experienced a loss of \$378.36. We had 5 participants, a much smaller group than usual. Jon was not sure if it was COVID related.

**-Youth Basketball** profited this season, which was a positive change from the last few seasons. We did not hire a gym attendant after the person who has done this for many years moved away; this certainly, contributed to the profit. We had one K-2 program with 18 children. Two 3&4 Grade travel teams with a total of 20 kids and one 5 & 6 Grade team with 10 kids participating. Jon was happy with these numbers.

**5. 3:40pm Spring Programs Update**

**-Tee Ball** has 48 kids.

**-Rookie Baseball** has 12 kids.

**-Eggstravaganza** Easter egg hunt was held this spring with 5000 filled eggs spread out over the Unity Park ballfields.

**6. 3:45pm Summer Programs update – Summer Camp, Unity Park Festival & Grant, etc.**

The Fun Times Summer Edition brochure was discussed. Summer camp has five openings for camp counselor and currently have 6 applicants. Jon would like to over hire to have that extra coverage just in case it's needed. The Unity Park Festival & Maker's Market is being held June 11, from 2:00-10pm. We are having three Night Skates; June 11, July 30 and August 27. Movies in the Park will show three movies this summer, as of press time the titles were not available. A high-definition projector was purchased for this movie season which will have a clear picture even in the daylight. Other programs in

the brochure was The Montague Soap Box Races scheduled for September, and adult co-ed pick-up soccer at Highland Park on Sundays and Wednesdays.

**7. 3:55pm Montague Center Park Project Update**

An information session was held April 27 to update the community on the progress of the project. There is a significant issue that has come up regarding the storm water covering some of the fields. The high-water table in that area was not a surprise but after a wet period this spring the issue appears to have gotten worse. This storm water issue will have to be resolved before we begin installing playground equipment and a walking path; hiring a landscape architect might be necessary. Jon is researching PARC Small Towns Grant that has a \$100,000 threshold. There are issues with the old blacksmith shop; the Montague Center Historic Commission may want to keep and refurbish the building and the shop is part of the Montague Center Historic District, whichever way the historical commission decides to go, the State will also have to be involved because it is in the historic district. The shop and area surrounding the building was planned to be a parking lot. This project will continue moving forward.

**8. 4:01pm Skatepark Maintenance**

An estimate for the repairs and maintenance for the skatepark was given to the commission. The surface needs to be sealed and caulked; Jon believes that can be done this fall. Repointing the mortar joints between the coping in the bowl, and the hip repair were addressed in the estimate. Money for this will come out of the Skatepark and our Grounds/Maintenance account.

**9. 4:07pm FY23 Departmental Strategic Plan Draft**

The draft was given to the commission, if they wanted to add anything to the plan then bring them to the June meeting.

**10. 4:08pm FY22 Current Operating Budget & Revolving Fund Balances**

The reports were reviewed.

**11. 4:12pm Reserve Fund Transfer Request of \$3,900 to Facilities/Ground Maint. Line-Item**

We are requesting a reserve fund transfer of \$3,900 into the Recreation Facilities/Grounds Maintenance account. This transfer will accommodate the daily cleaning of the Unity Park portable toilet from September through November of 2021. It was our understanding that the CARES Act funding ending in September of 2021 for items like this, and we agreed to continue with the daily cleaning for the unity for the remainder of the season to help alleviate Covid concerns.

**Motion:** Barbara Kuklewicz makes a motion to request a transfer of \$3,900 to Facilities/Ground Maint. Line item; seconded by Albert Cummings.

**Approved;** 3-0, passed

**12. 4:14pm Parks & Recreation Director's Report**

- **Time-off During Summer:** July 1 - July 8, granted.
- **Unity Pollinator Garden** project began but nothing has been installed yet at Unity Park.
- **Unity Park Ballfields Dedication to George F. Bush Ceremony; Saturday, May 21 @ Noon**

**13 4:18pm Topics not anticipated in the 48 hour posting requirement**

No new topics.

**14. 4:19pm Adjournment**

**Motion:** Albert Cummings makes a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Barbara Kuklewicz.

**Approved: 3-0**

**X** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Albert Cummings Secretary Or** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature Nam& Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Print:** \_\_\_\_\_