

Park Commission
May 6, 2010
DRAFT

Present Tom Chipman, Maureen Korson, Jamie Harrington, Tibor Nemeth, Bob Nemeth & Fin Comm guest, Mark Schultz

Override Question

Mark Schultz came in to the Park Meeting to discuss the timing of the upcoming Town Meeting and the override vote. Mr. Schultz advised the Commissioners that the Finance Committee was pressed due to timing constraints to make decisions about where money could best be spent should it become available. Mr. Schultz explained that the Finance Committee was concerned that due to annual budget cuts there was no longer enough funding to cover lifeguard salaries on the weekends at the lake. Mr. Schultz stated that things were going so fast as the deadline approached that it was frustrating to have to make decisions without there being time to consult with each committee individually. Mr. Schultz stated that it was not the intent of the Fin Comm to make any committee feel pushed into taking the money. Mr. Schultz stated that he understood there was a faction of the community taking aim at the Park Department for requesting the money. Ms. Korson stated that she had not received any negative feedback. Ms. Korson stated that she had been invited to a meeting to meet with the community to explain why the Park Commission requested override money. Ms. Korson stated that Park Commissioners did not officially ask to be part of the override. Ms. Korson stated that there had been no opportunity for the Park Commissioners to discuss it. Ms. Korson stated she appreciated that the Finance Committee was concerned about the effects of the cuts to the Park budget and would appreciate the opportunity to have money replaced. Ms. Korson stated she was looking for confirmation from the Park Commissioners that they were in agreement with the decision to request override money from the Town. Mr. Harrington asked if the Park Commission piece of the money could be removed from the request at this time. Mr. Schultz stated that the money was already a part of the override question and could not be removed at this point. Mr. Schultz stated that the Finance Committee felt concern over not having lifeguard coverage on the weekends at the Lake. Mr. Nemeth stated that there have not been lifeguards at Pleasure Point for a couple of years. Mr. Schultz stated that the process of making these decisions was very difficult and that it was the hope that everyone would be on the same page. Mr. Schultz left the meeting at 7:20. Mr. Harrington stated that he is opposed to the idea of the override because of the amount of money and it is mostly for the schools. Mr. Harrington stated that the other departments on the override make the cause appear more of a request from the entire town. Mr. Harrington stated that he feels the Park Dept should decline. Mr. Chipman stated he is opposed to the override but that the money has already been set aside for the Park Budget. Ms. Korson stated that the money would still be a part of the tax levy and would be beneficial to the department. Ms. Korson stated that if they Park Commission decides against taking the money she has checked with the town insurance company regarding proper signage at the lake and was advised that the "swim at your own risk when no lifeguard is on duty" is correct and proper wording. Ms. Korson asked the commission to change the day pass rate to a \$5.00 per person entry fee. Mr. Chipman stated he would like to see the current fee structure remain in place. Mr. Harrington asked if the revolving account fees could cover the costs of lifeguards completely. Ms. Korson stated that the beach sticker revenue currently collected on an annual basis is approximately \$10,000 and would cover approximately six weeks of limited midweek coverage. Ms. Korson stated that a portion of the day program revenue could be dedicated to cover the costs of life

guards Monday thru Friday and that beach sticker revenue could cover lifeguards on weekends. Mr. Nemeth stated that he feels it is most important to have lifeguards during the mid-week time when only one parent might be available to go to the beach with the children. Mr. Nemeth stated that he is concerned the residents would have a negative view of the Park Commission for taking override money. Mr. Chipman stated that if the \$4,000 override money were to be available it would offset some of the expense of staffing the waterfront.

Mr. Harrington made a motion to reject the \$4,600 override slotted to fund lifeguard salaries for weekend coverage. Mr. Tibor Nemeth seconded. All in favor.

Stoddard Park Bath-house Repair

Mr Chipman stated that the repair for the Stoddard Bathrooms are underway. He stated the carpenter suggested putting gutters over the doors to prevent further damage to the floors due to rain seeping under the door jam. Mr. Chipman stated that he has contacted Green Plumbing to place a spiket outside the building.

Mr. Harrington made a motion to have Green Plumbing move the water spiket to the outside of the Stoddard Bathhouse. Mr. Nemeth seconded. All in favor.

Goodwill Park Playground Project

Mr. Chipman questioned the current plans for the Goodwill Playground re-hab, and that he understood the Planning Board wanted to see property boundries. Mr. Nemet stated that he had observed Applewood Survey surveying Goodwill Park. Mr. Nemeth stated that Ms. Liz Nemeth had been able to get a photo of Goodwill Park from Google Earth.

Beach Sand Replenishment

Mr. Chipman stated that his contact for "glacial sand" has not gotten back to him with the pricing information. Ms. Korson stated that she had received an email from Mr. Geoffrey Zeamer for a price of \$700 for 35 tons of sand. Ms Korson stated that last year the Park Dept paid approximately \$1200 for 33 tons. There was discussion regarding the pricing and it was decided that Ms. Korson should place the order thru Mr. Zeamer's suggestion for both Stoddard and Pleasure Point as the Conservation Commission had given permission to do both. Mr. Chipman stated that the boy scouts are looking for a community project. Mr. Nemet suggested the boy scouts put together sandboxes for each side of the beach.

Adjourn 8:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Korson