

Park Commission Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2010
DRAFT

Present: Tom Chipman, Kristen Hedrick, Maureen Korson, Peter Hill, James Harrington, Tibor Nemeth, Bob Nemet

Field Updates

Mr. Nemet stated that the picnic tables should be set out. Mr. Nemet passed around a document showing placement from last year. Ms. Korson stated she would contact Mr. Nemet with where tables should be placed this year.

Tennis nets had to be replaced and repaired. Ms. Kristen stated that she had called the problem into the tennis team and asked that they help in fixing problems as they arise. Ms. Hedrick stated that the HS tennis team should help pay for replacement nets. Ms. Hedrick stated that she and Mr. Nemet worked very hard to try and re-thread the net that had been vandalized. Mr. Nemet stated that the problems occur between Friday afternoon and Sunday evenings. There was discussion about locking the tennis courts. Ms. Hedrick stated she was advised by the fire chief that it would be a safety issue.

Mr. Nemet stated that there had been additional vandalism at the Patoma cabin; the windows had been knocked in again and the entire building needs to be boarded up. Ms. Korson stated that there has never been as much problem with vandalism. Mr. Nemet stated that he knows there is a group in town, he stated it is very unfortunate that there are some of the skate boarder group, that are likely involved in the vandalism. Ms. Korson stated that there had been a report of graffiti tagging at Pleasure Pt. Mr. Chipman stated that there should be an alarm installed at the cabin. Ms. Korson stated she had called Mr. Gregg Lewis again to make the repairs at Patoma and he advised her that he is going out of town. Mr. Chipman stated that another carpenter should be brought in to do the repairs. Mr. Chipman stated that the outside of the building should also be painted.

Director's Report

Ms. Korson stated that she had received a complaint from a resident about the grills at Stoddard Park. Mr. Nemet stated that he left a couple of grills up for the fisherman to use over the winter. Ms. Korson stated that the resident observed that a charcoal fire had been started on the ground and she requests that the Park Commission do not allow grilling at all at the park. The Commissioners stated that they did not want to prohibit people from grilling. Mr. Nemet stated that the new grills would be put out shortly. Ms. Korson stated that the resident had emailed pictures of grills broken off the posts.

Ms. Korson stated that a lot of attention has been drawn to the lack of lifeguard coverage over the weekends. Ms. Korson stated that proper supervision at the waterfront has been a problem, in the past she has observed lifeguards not doing their jobs as diligently as is required. Ms. Korson stated that at times she has received complaints from residents that lifeguards were talking and texting rather than being in the stand. Mr. Korson stated that this year there is a complete turnover of waterfront staff and she is looking forward to a new group of guards. Ms. Korson stated that she had been in communication with the Town's insurance company to discuss the "swim at your own risk

when no lifeguard is on duty" policy and was advised the signage was proper. Ms. Korson stated that she felt the supervision of the waterfront midweek was sufficient because the program directors were there. Ms. Korson stated that weekend supervision is very difficult because it is not possible to find a qualified adult who is willing to work every week; in the past the responsibility has been shared between herself and Kristen Hedrick and also Peg Driscoll but that they were not there the entire day. Ms. Korson stated that this year she would place lifeguards during the traditionally most busy weekends, and at peak hours. Ms. Korson stated that there would be guards from the end of June thru the first weekend in August from 11:00-5:00. Parking sticker money would be used to fund the weekend coverage and a portion of the Patoma program fees would be used to cover the cost of lifeguards midweek. Ms. Korson stated that in August attendance at the lake drops off. Mr. Nemeth stated that many residents feel that the lake is not as healthy in August as it is earlier in the season. Ms. Korson stated that she was planning to place three guards on the weekends. Mr. Nemeth stated that many people use Pleasure Point because there is not gate guard. Ms. Korson stated that this year she is planning to place a gate guard at the point. Mr. Nemeth suggested placing a gate guard randomly so people would not know when to expect them. Ms. Korson stated she had an interview scheduled for a third gate guard. Ms. Korson mentioned that Mr. Ed Geis had been working as a gate guard for many years and is a very dependable employee.

Ms. Korson mentioned that she was surprised that there had been a presentation at Town Meeting regarding including the Park Dept. in the DPW when the committee had not sought the input of the commission or Recreation Department. Mr. Chipman expressed concern that the fields would no longer get the same attention in maintenance or scheduling. Mr. Harrington asked if it was known what the rationale was in combining the departments. Ms. Korson stated that it is her understanding that it would be a cost cutting measure. Ms. Korson stated that it is a good idea to look at ways to save the town money. Ms. Korson stated that the Park Department costs the town very little money when compared the services supplied. Mr. Nemet stated that there was a lot of thought put into the Town Meeting presentation but had been no discussion with the Park Department. Ms. Korson stated that the motion was indefinitely postponed. Mr. Nemeth stated that the DPW committee would be looking to take the fees brought in for field rentals and make it a part of the DPW budget. Ms. Korson stated that the Park Commission would be abolished and there would be a recreation committee to discuss just programming. Mr. Nemet stated that the initial committee's thought was to combine the water and highway departments but a DPW committee member had recommended that parks be a part of it. Mr. Chipman stated that he knows of other towns with a DPW where the workers can not be cross utilized because the department became unionized. Mr. Hill asked what would happen to the employees of the recreation department. Ms. Hedrick said she was told that one of the recreation department positions would be sent over to the DPW and also Mr. Nemet's salary would be taken out of the park budget.

Misc.

Mr. Chipman stated that the bath house was complete and Green Plumbing was notified to do the work to move the water spicket.

Ms. Korson stated that the first lights bill for the fields had come in. Ms. Korson stated that the monthly bill from Con Ed was correct; she was advised that they keep a generator available in the event electricity is needed.

Mr. Chipman stated that it was the final meeting for Mr. James Harrington. Mr. Harrington stated that he had been on the board for four years. Mr. Chipman thanked him for his service to the committee and the Town. Ms. Korson stated that she and Ms. Hedrick have greatly appreciated working with him.

Once Around

Upcoming meetings:

Planning Board on June 10th

Park Commission meeting on June 9th

Mr. Nemeth expressed surprise that Ms. Liz Theiler spoke negatively about the Park Department and employees. Ms. Korson agreed and stated that the playground equipment at Goodwill was flagged for replacement over five years ago but the fund raising efforts have taken longer than expected due to difficult financial times. There was discussion regarding the proposed plan to renovate the playground and the trees that would come down as part of the project. Mr. Nemeth stated that a large portion of the trees are sickly and present a hazard. Mr. Nemet stated that the park was deeded to the town for recreational use. Mr. Harrington stated that the term recreational use is subjective, and a parking area for a park could be considered recreational use. Mr. Nemeth stated that the CPC is not able to use CPA funds for the playground rehab.

Mr. Chipman inquired as to whether the cold storage fees had been paid by all the groups. Ms. Hedrick stated that the fee from lacrosse and baseball had been received. Ms. Korson stated that Ms. Heidi Gibson of the PTSA would also like to have cold storage.

Mr. Hill stated that the fire department is using the HS gym and will not set up a room at Flagg.

Mr. Chipman stated that he would like to see the flashing on the Flagg Building replaced. He had discussed the project with John Gagnon. Mr. Chipman stated that he hoped the Flagg Community Center group of several years ago would help with the work.

ADJOURN 8:30pm

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Korson