

Parks Commission Minutes

Wednesday July 13, 2016 7 pm

Attendance: Melissa Kasporn, Inge Daniels, Art Winters, Bob Nemet & Kristen Hedrick

Ms. Daniels called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Minutes

There are no new minutes to approve at this time.

1750 Update

Mr. Ritter has talked with architect Ed Clinton about the specs for the Elevator. His goal is to have the project out to bid August 1st and have construction completed on the elevator by December. The other two parts of the project would be put out to bid in September/October, start the work in December and finish soon after.

Director's Report

Mary Greendale sent an email about the trees at Stoddard and Goodwill asking that Parks look into spraying them in April so that we can avoid the gypsy moth invasion and destruction of our parks. Ms. Hedrick and Mr. Nemet did walk through Stoddard earlier this year and there was not an issue but we do not want to risk destroying the trees in 2017. Ms. Hedrick will get some prices for next spring.

The Well at Stoddard is having the fence replaced and they will be putting privacy slats on the fencing to hide the well building which is not very pretty to look at.

Patoma courts-Beals & Thomas are working on plans for the courts to put out to bid. The basketball court is a little narrower but we already knew that and that is ok. The tennis courts that are there are laid out smaller but it looks like we can have regulation size courts, the areas around the courts would be tight. 114' x 98' vs 122' x 108' Ms. Hedrick would like to review the layout to make sure there is enough space.

Summer programs- Junior Patoma is full five of the 7 sessions. Senior Patoma is full 5 of the 7 sessions. Goodwill is half full but enrollment is always increasing as the summer goes on.

Supervisor Staff has been amazing and the counselors have been great! CIT's this week at Junior have been outstanding and at Goodwill they are learning the ropes!

Swim lessons are going well. Waterfront is going well. Katie is doing a great job with the staff and we have received many compliments about how professional they have been. Weekends have been busy but good. This past weekend we had to close Sat & Sun due to the cooler/rainy weather.

Thoughts for next year with the snack Shack- Ms. Hedrick to change how we offer swim lessons. Patoma Swim ends at 11 am. She would hire two lifeguards(or have them take week long shifts and rotate three or four guards) to just teach public swim lessons. They would work 11-6 pm- 35 hours a week and teach swim lesson all afternoon. There would be two lessons going at once and this way we would bring in more public to the park throughout the afternoon. That's between 8-12 kids/parents each lesson all afternoon. This will/could increase people coming to the lake in the afternoon and revenue at the Snack Shack.

Ms. Hedrick also wanted to add in some in ground/permanent picnic tables in the picnic area so that we can keep the Patoma programs in one area and leave the rest of the park open to the public patrons during program hours. This way people would not feel like they were intruding on our programs during the day.

Ms. Hedrick also feels that more advertising needs to be done to let people know the Snack Shack is available. Ms. Daniels suggested that we offer a free \$1 gift certificate to the Snack Shack to the Goodwill Program kids as those parents might not even know about the Lake or what is available down there. Ms. Kasporn suggested Snack Shack lawn

signs in the picnic areas to let people know it is available. Ms. Hedrick agreed that these were all great options and would like to talk more about them and ideas for next year. At this time there are too many things going on to do it now.

Ms. Hedrick also suggested that the old parking lot area might be turned into a practice field area- it is flat and sprinklers could possibly be put there. This could help with some much needed practice space. Mr. Nemet thought it could work and will look into sprinkler options. Mr. Nemet also would like to see what the cost would be to re- grade the flat area behind 1750 and add in some field space there for recreational programming.

New position- With the departure of Ms. Korson the Parks Commission has to move forward and decide what to do to fill the position. A Temporary Recreation Administrator at 30 hour a week position to start immediately had been posted and the only letter of interest came from Ms. DiLuzio. This position would be 30 hours at \$20 per hour until the Department is able to find a replacement. Ms. DiLuzio happily accepted the position. Ms. Kaspern stated that she and Ms. Hedrick met with Mr. Ritter and that the Parks Commission would like to re write the position to fit what the department will need for the future. Ms. Kaspern also said that the posting should happen this September/October and interviews held October/November to hire someone for the winter and ready for the busy spring summer seasons. Ms. Daniels and Mr. Winters agreed that seemed like a reasonable timeline.

Fields

The Fields are holding up pretty well considering the tough drought like conditions. The only field that is not doing well is the High School grass fields. They are not getting any water because the sprinklers are not working. This is under the jurisdiction of the High School care & maintenance. Mr. Nemet skipped a week of mowing because there wasn't anything to mow.

Mr. Winters asked to officially increase the Holliston Youth Soccer fee to use the fields. Mr. Winters had said that we had talked about it this past winter and talked with Holliston Youth Soccer about the fee being increased but it had not been voted on. Mr. Nemet and Ms. Hedrick figure out that the increase to \$10 would cover the maintenance of the fields HYSA has been using. Ms. Kaspern made a motion to increase the fee from \$6 per hour to \$10 per hour, Mr. Winters seconded. ALL IN FAVOR

Once Around:

Ms. Daniels asked that the Goodwill basketball court surface under the basket still needs to be fixed. Ms. Hedrick stated she would make some calls.

Mr. Nemet said he was approached by a family in town who lost their son recently and might like to put a bench down at Lake Winthrop at Stoddard facing the water. They are not sure if they want their sons name on it but maybe a quote. Mr. Nemet & Ms. Hedrick believe they found a possible spot and will meet down there to check it out in the next few weeks. Ms. Daniels thought that we should talk with the family and let them know that we would be happy to do it but also make sure they know we might have to re-locate the bench if we expand waterfront activities but the bench would be re-located respectfully and appropriately. Mr. Nemet will talk with the family.

Next meeting Wednesday August 10th at 7 pm.

Motion to Adjourn 8:24 pm ALL IN FAVOR