

Minutes
Alton Parks and Recreation Commission
May 10, 2005
A.V.A.S. Public Park, 7:30pm

Members Present: Dave Cumming, William Lionetta, Melissa Wells, Josh Hoagland and Pete Shibley.

Staff Present: Kellie Troendle

Call To Order

Chairman, D. Cumming, called the Meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Approval of Agenda

W. Lionetta made a motion to accept the Agenda as presented; motion was seconded by M. Wells and passed.

Approval of Minutes 4-12-05

D. Cumming made a motion to approve the Minutes of April 12, 2005 as written. The motion was seconded by W. Lionetta and passed. P. Shibley abstained.

Old Business

Recap of 1/2 Marathon- The Commission discussed the Marathon and noted the event was excellent even though the weather was damp and that the runners appreciated the group's high spirits and enthusiasm. Other aid stations had themes this year and one station was 3/4 of a mile away from our station. The Commission discussed recommending that they try a new aid location next year to get a different view of the race. EndorFun Sports donated \$250.00 to the Parks and Recreation Department, which will be used for community programs. The Commission thanked everyone for their participation and noted others that assisted with the aid station including: Mike Lionetta, Ken Roberts, John and Lindsay Bishop.

New Business

Softball- The Commission discussed the issues addressed at the coaches meeting including field maintenance, Alton Central School and New Durham field use, reminder of the prohibition of composite bats and the schedule. The Commission discussed issues at the ACS field and complaints from a neighbor and possible solutions to address their concerns including installing an adequate backstop and net to help contain foul or over thrown balls. The Commission noted there was an incident at the ND Field last year and no player was removed from the program because the situation occurred after the game was over. The Commission also discussed the need to repair Jones Field noting ruts and uneven surfaces. In the Youth League there are over 20 teams with 300 children participating and the field gets a lot of use and additional space is needed to accommodate the number of players. J. Hoagland suggested submitting the field for consideration in the MLB, Diamonds in the Rough Program. The Commission suggested contacting the Red Sox for ideas on improvements, they may be interested in helping as we have the Little Fenway field. The Commission also mentioned contacting Nashua Pride or NH Fisher Cats for assistance.

Beach Committee- The plans for the beach project are progressing nicely. The director will need to meet with the Department of Transportation for discussion of the plan. If there are no changes for DOT the plans will be submitted to the Selectmen for approval then to the Wetlands Bureau for approval. P. Shibley recommended starting the project at the Harmony Park end and working over toward the beach. Mr. Shibley also reported that the Selectmen accepted the donation of sand and excavator use for the project. The director reported the clean up day scheduled for May 21 was postponed until later in the season because of the cold weather.

Summer Schedule- The Summer Schedule has been distributed. W. Lionetta suggested putting the summer schedule and adult softball schedule online for people to browse.

New Business

Fireworks- The director reported that the Town has contracted with a company that will be launching the Fireworks display from a barge on July 2 and August 13 at 9:20pm in Alton Bay.

Smoking at Jones Field-The director said the Town Administrator would like the Commission's input and recommendation on smoking at the Town Parks because the Selectmen are voting on an Ordinance in regard to smoking at Town Parks. The Commission discussed the pros and cons of regulating the use of the parks and the rights of people that smoke and do not smoke. The Commission agreed that because it was brought up in relation to Jones Field specifically and it is bothering people we should do something but they didn't think legislating the use of the parks was the solution. The Commission suggested installing an attractive, respectful, positive sign that is user friendly. The Commission suggested posting a sign at Jones Field before the bridge that says no smoking past this point and if people want to smoke the parking area may be designated as a smoking area, also it is important to provide a container for the extinguishment of cigarettes. The Commission discussed the wording of the sign at Jones Field to read, "This is an athletic facility. We want to promote a positive, healthy environment. Please no smoking beyond this point. We thank you for your cooperation." The director said that within the Youth League organization they could set rules for their coaches, parents and players and perhaps that is an angle they can pursue and may be more enforceable instead of establishing an ordinance to prohibit smoking in a public, open space.

Fishing in Swim Areas- The Commission discussed fishing in designated swim areas and noted concerns with people swimming and the possibility of injury due to invisible fishing line stuck in the water and entanglement issues and hooks on the bottom of the lake surface. The Commission recommended that fishing be prohibited in designated swim areas for safety reasons.

Town Wide Yard Sale- The Department is sponsoring its annual Yard Sale on Saturday, June 4, 2005 from 9:00am-3:00pm.

Canoe Race- The Department is sponsoring its annual Canoe and Kayak Race on Sunday, June 26, 2005 at 10:00am. River Run Deli donated ten \$10.00 gift certificates and coupons for free ice cream cones for prizes. Volunteers are needed to help with the event, set up begins at 9:00am. A Water Event Permit has been applied for from the Marine Patrol.

Compost Bins- The department sold 21 bins and 16 pails and the program was a fundraiser for revolving fund programs.

Web Site- The Commission recommended putting the brochure on the web site and linking our site with the Lakes Region Association and the Mt. Washington Cruise.

Job Openings- The department is looking to hire staff for Lifeguards, Program leaders, softball umpires, and the maintenance technician.

Dogs in Swimming Areas- The director reported that the Town Administrator would like the Commission's recommendation of dogs in the swimming areas and that the swimming areas included more than the Town Beach it also included the Town Swim Dock. The Commission said they did agree that use of the swim areas

by dogs should be limited to off-season in all designated Town swim areas and also that dogs should be restrained and owners should clean up after their dogs.

CYA Program- The director reported that CYA would like the department to co-sponsor a program with their organization. K. Troendle requested that CYA send the Commission a written proposal for co-sponsorship of a Grandparent/Youth Program. The CYA group was not sure of the date, time, location or schedule of events and the director reported that the information is needed in order to discuss co-sponsorship. The director also reported that CYA is looking to co-sponsor events with the Town because the Town has the necessary insurance that is required by the Alton Central School in order to run programs at their facility.

Ice Skating- K. Troendle reported that CYA is interested in building an ice skating rink in Town and K. Troendle said to CYA that a rink is very expensive to maintain and not something the Parks and Recreation Department can do at this time with their funds and staff. K. Troendle said the Town was not supportive of maintaining the existing rink and that is why it was taken apart and developed into a basketball court. The rink would need to be volunteer or privately run. Also K. Troendle reported that our neighboring Towns provide an ice rink facility and Alton participants are traveling to other Towns to play hockey or ice skate. W. Lionetta said Brewster Academy is building a new rink in Wolfeboro and the rink in Hooksett is privately funded.

Caboose- The director reported that the Depot Park Committee is interested in using the Caboose and would like to move the Caboose to a different location at the future park site. P. Shibley reported that the Caboose is not serving a useful purpose and would be nice to see used in the park. The Commission was happy to see a Town organization interested in taking over the Caboose restoration project and thought it was a wonderful idea to make it a part of the downtown park area.

Other

Meeting Time- P. Shibley recommended changing the meeting time to an earlier time if possible. The Commission said they could meet next month at 5:45pm on June 16, 2005 and will see how that works for all the members.

Baysider Newspaper- The Commission discussed the wonderful weekly newspaper that is printed on a weekly basis and is a good way to promote our department activities.

Adjournment

P. Shibley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20pm; motion was seconded by M. Wells and passed.
The next meeting is June 16, 2005 at 5:45pm at A.V.A.S. Public Park.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kellie Troendle, Certified Park and Recreation Professional
Parks and Recreation Director*