

Minutes
Alton Parks and Recreation Commission
February 7, 2006
A.V.A.S. Public Park, 6:00pm

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

Staff Present: Kellie Troendle

Call To Order

Chairman, D. Cumming, called the Meeting to order at 6:05pm.

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 6-16-05

M. Wells made a motion to approve the Minutes of June 16, 2005 as written. The motion was seconded by D. Cumming and passed.

Old Business

Town Beach- Article 17 will be on the ballot for discussion at the Deliberative Session on Wednesday, February 8, 2006 at 7:00pm at Prospect Mountain High School. K. Troendle will speak to the Article and answer questions the public may have. The Article is for \$30,000 for Phase 2 of the Beach Project, which includes: trees and shrubs, turf, shade structure, walkway and privacy fencing.

New Business

Boat Launch- The Commission discussed a letter of complaint from John Nelson in regard to the Alton Bay Public Boat Ramp. The Commission agreed that the loading dock should be repaired and ideally increased in size depending on wetlands regulations. Also the Commission suggested that a new sign reading, "15 Minute Parking" be installed to help alleviate some of the boats parking at the site too long. The Commission discussed that if two people are loading a boat it is not usually a problem and that the water is 5' deep by the loading dock and that allows for plenty of room loading a boat. The Commission discussed the other suggestions for changes to the location and noted that the suggestions would be costly and require Wetlands Board approval and permits. Also the Commission did not feel it reasonable to take parking spaces away from the park users and restaurant to accommodate the space requirements for increasing the launching area in the parking lot. The Director reported that the Highway Department did repair the boat ramp and they compacted the soft asphalt. The Director reported that no other complaints were received in regard to this issue. The Commission also noted that there is a launching area across the bay where boaters can launch a boat if they are not comfortable with the public facility provided.

Program Proposals- The Director presented three proposals from private companies that wanted to offer programs through the Parks and Recreation Department specifically to be held at the Alton Bay Community Center. (1) Art Classes- for children, instructed by a certified art teacher in painting, drawing, ceramics and clay sewing. The cost of the program is \$15 for 1.5 hours, one day per week; (2) Keyboard Lessons- for all ages, \$125 for a ten week session for a 45 minute class; (3) Karate Program- for children, 5 weeks for 1 hour per day for \$40 per child. The Commission discussed the proposals and the benefits they would bring into the community. The Director noted that the Karate Studio was looking for a part time space and wanted to rent the Alton Bay Community Center two days per week and they are currently paying a \$50.00 rental fee per day

and will be moving their program to a new space as soon as they find a building in Alton. The Director noted that Parks and Recreation programs traditionally do not duplicate services or compete with established businesses that are already providing that service in Town. Also the Director noted the instructors would be considered Independent Contractors under these proposals and not employees and there are no established guidelines on how to work with Independent Contractors. The Director said there is no control over their subject matter, class description, and schedule or discipline procedures. She also suggested background checks be performed. The Commission discussed businesses using the Parks and Recreation Department as a resource to provide the space, advertising and insurance and did not feel that businesses should make a profit using a Town's facility or Department. The Commission said that the space can be rented for commercial use and that is what the businesses should do. The Director noted that Parks and Recreation sponsored programs are held to benefit the community and teach skills and programs are self-sufficient and not profit driven. The Commission concluded that the Parks and Recreation Department should establish criteria for choosing the classes to select and that the Department should recruit instructors to teach specific programs that are needed in Town and that people should not run a business through the Town.

Office Schedule- The Commission discussed the office schedule while the Director is out on leave. The Commission did want to sponsor the traditional events as schedule and offered to volunteer to oversee the Adult Softball League Meetings and schedule set up and also volunteered to help at the Canoe Race. The Yard Sale deadlines were moved up a few weeks to have that event information available before the Director takes leave. The Commission will discuss schedule details in more depth following the budget vote and after the Director meets with the Town Administrator to get his input.

ACVT Information Exchange- D. Cumming and K. Troendle attended the Informational Exchange at PMHS and D. Cumming gave an excellent presentation on the Alton Parks and Recreation Department including the services the Department provides and the attendance numbers at the events.

Egg Hunt- The Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 15, 2006 at Jones Field, weather permitting. The rain/snow location is the Alton Bay Community Center. M. Wells and Josie will be there to help. The times are as follows: Ages 0-3- 9:00am; 4&5 years- 9:30am; 6&7 years- 10:00am and 8&9 years- 10:30am. Eggs filled with candy will be hidden and distributed evenly to all children in the age group and all children will receive a special surprise. The program is free to Alton residents.

Program Leader- The Director discussed the idea of hiring a person to help lead some of the special event programs this year to be paid out of the Recreational Revolving Fund with no impact to the Town's Budget. The ideal person would be motivated, positive, creative, dependable and outgoing. The position would be posted and applications accepted and reviewed, the Director would like to hire someone before May 2006.

Other

Snow Shoe Hike- As of today there is no snow on the ground so the event looks like it will be cancelled. The next hike is March 14, 2006 at 7:00pm at Trask Swamp.

Winter Festival- The Commission discussed the upcoming Winter Festival and their concerns in regard to the ice conditions and safety of the participants. The Commission discussed the long-range forecast, which is calling for rain on Thursday before the event and warm weather. It was noted that the lake is not even frozen in the bay and the current from the open river is a concern to the stability of the ice. The Director noted that when people are invited to attend an event the duty of care is increased and the ice needs to be positively safe. With the additional people to the Bay due to the Rotary Ice Fishing Derby the number of people would be greater and the ice simply is not safe for all of that activity. The planes have not landed this year and the run way is not cleared. The Commission also noted that with the predicted rain it would coat the surface with a thin layer of ice and make walking of the ice slick and dangerous. Usually there is a layer of snow on top of

the ice to provide traction. The Commission wanted to get the word out as soon as possible in regard to the cancellation as people travel distances to attend the event and said that the event is cancelled due to unsafe ice conditions.

Town Public Boat Docks- D. Cumming reported that the repairs to the Public Boat Docks were completed and that they look nice. He noted that some of the benches need to be replaced and the Department will do that in the spring.

Fireworks- The Director is waiting to hear from the Town Administrator on the July 2006 date.

Adjournment

W. Lionetta made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30pm; motion was seconded by M. Wells and passed.
The next meeting is March 21, 2006 at 6:00pm at A.V.A.S. Public Park.

Respectfully submitted,

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