

Minutes
Alton Parks and Recreation Commission
December 15, 2021
6:00pm, Pearson Road Community Center

Members Present: Elizabeth Shelton, John Markland, and Ken Roberts

Staff Present: Kellie Troendle-Parks and Recreation Director

Public: Lisa Sorrentino, Alton Youth League President

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Chairwoman, E. Shelton.

Approval of Agenda

J. Markland made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented, motion was seconded by K. Roberts and passed.

Approval of Minutes

J. Markland made a motion to approve the Minutes of September 23, 2021 as presented, motion was seconded by K. Roberts and passed.

Appointment with Alton Youth League

The Commission met with Lisa Sorrentino, president of the Alton Youth League, to discuss the current and future status of the Alton Youth League Program. L. Sorrentino explained that the Alton Youth League is finding it challenging to find parent volunteers to serve on the board, volunteer to run the snack shack, perform field maintenance, and assist with the needs of the program. She expressed concern that the program may not take place without significant volunteer support. The Commission noted they are interested in seeing that a baseball program is provided for the Alton community but are not in a position to “take over” the program due to the same reasons the AYL is facing, and not having the staff or volunteer base to handle the program logistics. The Commission offered suggestions to keep the program running like partnering with a neighboring community or seeking volunteer help from interested parents. K. Roberts suggested if the AYL determines that the League will be disbanding due to lack of interest and volunteers that perhaps the Town Attorney can offer advice on how to dissolve the League. The Commission discussed trends with baseball/softball players finding other interests like soccer and dance, and noted the declining participation numbers of the program. E. Shelton recommended focusing on the T-Ball program parents, and encouraging them to step up and be more involved in the League. E. Shelton also advised to write a letter to the editor of the Baysider Newspaper asking for volunteers, and explain that the League will dissolve if people do not volunteer to run it. It was noted that in the past parents were required, as part of the registration fee, to donate a number of hours of volunteer time in order for their child to play. L. Sorrentino stated most people don’t want to help and in turn the snack shack was not in service and the fields were not ready for opening day. K. Troendle reported that Nick Moulton (son and grandson of the Little Fenway Field designers/builders- Mr. Moulton and Mr. Baggaley) offered to

help with field maintenance in 2022, and possibly help out with the AYL program. J. Markland offered to help at the snack shack and do what he could and doesn't want to see the program end. L. Sorrentino stated the current AYL board (all of who are serving their last term) will be giving the program one more try but if new people do not step forward to volunteer to serve on the AYL Board, then the program may not happen in the future as an AYL program. It was noted that the AYL has always been a stand-alone, non-profit organization since its inception (for over 40+ years) and has not been a Town run program at any time.

Public Input (limited to 3 minutes per person- agenda items only)

There was no public input.

Old Business

Fall/Winter Programs Recap- K. Troendle reported the following: Pickleball was held up until the beginning of November, four days a week, with approximately 12-18 people per day. The Tennis Courts are open with nets up and people are still playing Tennis and Pickleball. Courts will be open until the first plowable snow. Scarecrow Contest had 9 participants; Virtual Halloween Parade had 5 participants; Cozy Craft Blankets had 26 participants; Halloween Grab Bags had 38 participants (sold out); October Weight Training Classes had 25 participants; Yoga Classes had 14 participants; November Weight Training Classes had 51 participants; Yoga Classes had 12 participants; Light Up Night Craft Bags had 73 participants; Light Up Positivi Tree had 40 participants; Light Up Night Santa had over 150 participants. The Department is currently co-sponsoring Stockings for Seniors with the Pearson Road Community Center. The Department also did Facebook posts for Alton's favorite pie and Christmas Movie in addition to weekly DIY craft projects. Pickleball is currently on hold at Prospect Mountain High School due to the increased number of COVID cases in Alton.

New Business

Friends of Alton Parks and Recreation- K. Troendle reported that "friends" groups are used to raise funds for recreation based programs and projects, and suggested looking into the possibility of forming a friends group in Alton to address the addition of an updated playground at Jones Field. E. Shelton noted that another project the friends group could assist with is adding a splash pad at B&M Park or Liberty Tree Park. K. Troendle said benefits of friends groups are they assist with qualifying for grants and charitable donations, and they provide a volunteer support base with a common goal. There was discussion about the friends group being independent of the Town but to inform the Town Administrator that the Commission would like to look into the options of exploring a friend of Parks and Recreation group in Alton.

Recreation Revolving Fund Request- K. Troendle requested that \$180.00 be approved from the Recreation Revolving Fund for the purpose of purchasing 30 blanket kits for the Cozy Craft Program (\$6 each kit). J. Markland made a motion to approve the request for \$180.00 as presented, motion was seconded by K. Roberts and passed.

Summer Program Ideas- K. Troendle noted that the Department is looking to participate in the NFL Flag Football program this spring and fall with Wolfeboro, New Durham, Ossipee and Wakefield. The program would run April-June and August-September. The Commission discussed going ahead and sponsoring the Old Home Day 5K Race and Craft Fair for 2022. Concerns about summer camp staff were discussed for the 2022 program in regard to wages and recruitment. The Department will also offer concerts, hiking and kayaking events and a crafting program with Catchpenny. K. Troendle asked the Commission to share any program/event ideas.

Other-

Snowmobile Club- The Snowmobile Club marked the snowmobile trail at Jones Field with stakes and ribbon and put down the plywood on the bridge.

Splash Pad- E. Shelton suggested looking into the possibility of adding a splash pad to B&M Park or Liberty Tree Park as a safe water place for smaller children to play/cool off. With concerns of heat advisories and drownings in state lakes/ponds the splash pad would be a safe alternative to swimming at the Town Dock or Beach. The splash pad could start out with a fountain to cool off in, and then other features could be added like a mushroom to stand under. K. Troendle will research splash pads and bring the information back to the Commission for review.

Public Input II (limited to 5 minutes per person on any Governmental/Town Business)

There was no public input.

Adjournment

K. Roberts made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:06pm; motion was seconded by J. Markland and passed. The next meeting is scheduled for a date in March 2022 TBD at 6:00pm at the Pearson Road Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,

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