

PARKS COMMISSIONERS
MASON LIBRARY MEETING ROOM
231 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
MONDAY, MAY 23, 2011
5:30 P.M.

PRESENT:

PAUL GIBBONS, CHAIRMAN

CHRISTINE WARD

KAREN SMITH

STEVEN BANNON

CHARLES BOUTEILLER

ELIZA CRESCENTINI

THOMAS NORTON

ALSO PRESENT: KEVIN O'DONNELL, TOWN MANAGER
LAURA MARTIN – BERKSHIRE SOUTH

The meeting of the Parks Commissioners was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A. Minutes of the April 11, 2011 meeting

MOTION: Mr. Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Ms. Smith

VOTE: 6-0

B. Minutes of the April 25, 2011 meeting

MOTION: Mr. Bannon to approve.

SECOND: Ms. Crescentini

VOTE: 6-0

2. **PARKS CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

Mr. Sokul was not present as he was on vacation. Mr. Bannon noted that the warning track needs to be cleaned up at Memorial Field. In the future, the field should be ready to be used by April 1.

3. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Kevin O'Donnell, Town Manager – Re: Skate Park Issues. Mr. O'Donnell said an e-mail was sent to Parks, Sergeant Bartini, Chief Walsh, and Berkshire South asking for ideas on how to address the problems at Memorial Field Skate Park. Chief Walsh sent a letter out to the recent graduates of the citizens' police academy asking them if they would like to volunteer at the parks. He noted that it would be a starting point. Ms. Ward noted she would like to see more of a strategy and training for using the volunteers. Volunteers would be told that if they see problems to contact the Police Department and advise them of the disturbance. The volunteers would also be easily identified. Mr. O'Donnell said that the Parks Commissioners need to supply the Police Department with a schedule of activities. It was noted that diligence needs to be at all parks and not just

Memorial Field. Chief Walsh advised that there is a problem with parents just dropping kids off from other towns. Mr. O'Donnell noted that he would work with Eliza, Tom and Lannie to organize the rules and information. He suggested installing signs noting if trouble or a situation is seen, to contact the police and to note the number.

B. FY 11 Capital Expenditures:

Christine Ward reported on the information that was gathered on the fitness equipment. She noted a site visit was done at Lenox High School and Simons Rock. The fitness equipment consists of stations where people can do exercises, walking and jogging. A suggestion was made to interconnect the walking and jogging trails with a ½ mile loop between Park Street and Grove Street and a 5 mile loop connecting the Lake Mansfield park/fitness site to the Park Street and Grove Street. The outdoor fitness equipment is metal which is more durable. Installation can be done by volunteers or park staff. Representatives of the company would be available for guidance. Climbing equipment can be used for upper body strength for adults as well as kids. It was proposed to schedule a community event and have instructors available to show people how to use the equipment. Pedestals and instruction signs are available to attach to the equipment.

PARK STREET: Install a climber for \$3,861.00 that is for all ages.
Sit Up Board - \$896.00

GROVE STREET: M shape climber – for children and adults \$1,773.00.
Push up stand for \$141.00

LAKE MANSFIELD: Horizontal Ladder – monkey bars - \$881.00

All climbing equipment has to have a mulch component and stabilized by putting into cement.

Procurement Requirement:

If the item cost is less than \$5,000 – No Bid Requirements

\$5,000 - \$9,999 – Seek three (3) Quotes from Vendors

\$10,000 or more – Advertise and Solicit Sealed Bids or Proposals

Ms. Ward said she would e-mail the outline of the proposed purchases to everyone with the total amount. Delivery needs to be by June 30th.

MOTION: Mr. Bannon to authorize using up to \$14,000 for the purchase of fitness equipment, swing set, and sign holders as outlined by Ms. Ward.

SECOND: Mr. Bouteillier

VOTE: 6-0-1

Tom Norton said he would like to see improvements made to the Housatonic Playground.

Mr. Bannon noted that at the July meeting to address a capital improvement plan for next year to look at what we want to place at the senior center, Town Hall and Housatonic.

PARKS USAGE REQUESTS:

A. Allison Rada of Community Health Programs for a Parks Usage Request to host a summer playgroup at Lake Mansfield on Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on the following dates: July 7, July 14, July 21, July 28, August 4, August 11, and August 18, 2011. (Discussion/Vote)

MOTION: Mr. Bannon to approve the request.

SECOND: Mr. Gibbons

VOTE: 6-0-1

B. Berkshire South Regional Community Center to host skateboard clinics at the Memorial Field Skate Park from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Monday through Friday on the following dates: July 11-15, July 18,-22, July 25-29, August 1-5, August 8-12, and August 15-19. (Discussion/Vote)

MOTION: Mr. Bannon to approve the request.

SECOND: Mr. Gibbons

VOTE: 6-0-1

C. Great Barrington's 250th Committee, Betsy Andrus, to host an Ethnic Fair at the Housatonic School Playground and Park on Saturday, June 11, 2011 from 1:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. (Discussion/Vote)

MOTION: Mr. Bannon to approve the request.

SECOND: Mr. Gibbons

VOTE: 7-1

It was approved to put up the tent on Friday night and remove it by 1:00 p.m. on Sunday. The road is also proposed to be closed from the Corner Market to the Housatonic Community Center.

BERKSHIRE SOUTH REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER

A. Laura Martin advised that the parks programs are going well. Mr. Gibbons said he hasn't yet ordered the lifeguard chair because he hadn't received all the information. Ms. Martin noted that she e-mailed the information to Mr. Gibbons. The staffing is almost complete. Mr. Gibbons said he e-mailed Joe Sokul twice that the lock is broken on the shed. Ms. Ward said it is great that the portal-lets were put in early at Lake Mansfield. The park is being used a great deal already. The weed fabric is in but the ropes haven't been installed yet.

There will be a request coming September 19, to use Memorial Field.

There being n further business, the meeting adjourned at ???

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Wichmann

Secretary

(Meeting Recorded – Secretary was not present)