

**CHAPLIN
RECREATIONCOMMISSION
Special Meeting Minutes
Chaplin Library, 7:00 P.M.
March 16, 2017**

Call to order at 7:01 p.m.

Members present: Chairman Matthew Foster, Matthew Cunningham, Gary Bennett, David Stone

Absent: Tim Barr, John Smith, Paul Deveny

Alternates Seated: None

Also present: Elizabeth Marsden, Recording Clerk

Approval of Minutes of March 1, 2017 special meeting: D. Stone moved to approve the minutes, G. Bennett seconded the *motion*, M. Cunningham abstained, M. Foster in favor, *motion* carried.

Correction of Rec Director and Recording Clerk line item totals: M. Cunningham said the Board of Finance would make the minor correction in line item discrepancy, and the Commission's earlier vote to approve the FY 2017/2018 budget would stand. No new vote needed.

Audience of Citizens: None

Communications: None.

Old Business

Building and Field: M. Cunningham reported that CIP met, they've composed a plan for the next 5 years, the playscape budget will be stretched out over the next two budget years not counting the current one. The budget was increased to 38K but will be split over 2 years, the playscape to be expanded in FY 2018/19. Also, the Board of Selectman voted to hire a part time public works person who will take over mowing for the town, including mowing Garrison field.

M. Cunningham mentioned that when the playscape was built, due to incidentals in concrete and other associated costs, they were over CIP budget by \$8,851.80. He proposed that Rec request the Board of Finance transfer that sum from Building and Field to the CIP Fund. M. Cunningham will prepare that request, but the Rec Commission must vote on it first.

M. Cunningham moved that the Rec Commission request the Board of Finance transfer \$8,851.80 from the Building and Field line item to the Playscape CIP Fund in order to reconcile that account, G. Bennett seconded the *motion*, all in favor, *motion* carried.

Sports Programs: See New Business.

Special Activities: Bicycle Rodeo, M. Cunningham has pre-commitments from Dicks Sporting Goods and some local bike shops which will donate bikes and helmets as prizes. Bicycle police from Eastern and Willimantic will attend. Program will promote bike safety, and giveaways, bikes and helmets from Dicks, Scotts Cyclery and Storrs Cyclery. AAA will attend, it is their program. This won't cost the town any money. D. Stone said scouts can earn merit badges if they teach bike safety and cub scouts can earn rewards for doing bike safety and he will try to link that to the event. No date yet. The event might coordinate with another local bike club event usually held at Garrison Field every year.

New Business

Sports Programs:

Basketball Tournament – Cindy Bourassa, a Chaplin basketball coach, has a group of kids grades 5-6 interested in 2017 tournaments through “Sports on 66.” Need to confirm that Chaplin will cover insurance, collect fees and pay the portion to Sports on 66.

M. Cunningham moved to collect and spend up to \$300 in registration fees out of Special Revenue for basketball players to enter the Sports on 66 tournament, D. Stone seconded the *motion*, all in favor, *motion* carried.

Basketball (general):

M. Foster invited a *motion* for Rec Dept to spend \$100 per team that was sent out to other towns for end of year tournament, and collect \$100 for each team that came to Chaplin for tournament. D. Stone so moved, G. Bennett seconded the *motion*, all in favor, *motion* carried.

Basketball Clinic: M. Foster wants to keep interested kids busy with a six week program outside the regular league, fee will be \$20 per player, and they should be able to keep using elementary schools. No janitor fees at elementary schools, only at high schools during games. They will not have to buy uniforms. The schedule will be 2 nights per week, 1.5 hours per night, M. Foster estimated.

M. Foster invited a *motion* to collect \$20 per player for a 6-week basketball clinic summer of 2017, groups between grades 2 and 6. M. Cunningham so moved, M. Foster seconded the *motion*, all in favor, *motion* carried.

Soccer: John Smith would like to hold a “Yes Soccer Camp” at Garrison Field. M. Cunningham asked whether Garrison is set up to be a regulation soccer field or how easily it could be, and M. Foster said it already has pins, they just need to be located with a metal detector and the field lined.

Optional start dates: June 12, 19 and 26 or July 17, 24, 31

3-5 year olds, 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., \$70 per player

6-14 year olds, 9:00 a.m. to noon, \$110 per player
7-14 year olds 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., \$160 per player

The Commission discussed subsidizing some of the costs, picking dates that don't conflict with other towns, reaching out to towns that aren't doing this and inviting them to come to Chaplin. Need to make sure to have the proper goal equipment. M. Cunningham suggested they choose July dates to avoid conflict with baseball. This will be revisited but the members agreed they want to do this.

Archery: No updates at this time.

Playscape: To be expanded in FY 2018/2019, mentioned above.

Treasurer's Report: None.

Other Business

M. Cunningham reported that a Help Wanted ad for a Rec Director is out, should be someone who can do hands-on active work with program participants/players as well as program development. Commission members to read the job description and M. Foster wanted to make adjustments – however, M. Cunningham reminded them that the Board of Selectman attorneys will have to approve any changes, so it could be cumbersome. M. Cunningham suggested discussing any changes at the next meeting. M. Foster reiterated the need for programs to be in writing in a notebook for anyone who needs to review them.

D. Stone said G. Bennett emailed to all Commission members regarding a good TBall program. M. Foster will help D. Stone and G. Bennett with online registration.

M. Cunningham gave an update on the community room at the senior center, stage work has been nearly completed. If the room will be used on a more regular basis, the town will arrange for the heat in that room to be integrated with the heating system in the rest of the building. Now arranging for painting, laying tile after that, strip and refinish rest of floor.

G. Bennett asked about softball, need 2 new bases for the field used by the Firehouse League, existing bases are cracked/broken. M. Foster said there are some in the shed. Also discussed expanding the infield to 27 feet to be the same dimensions as Shetucket Park. The only potential cost would be new bases and cheap ones are around \$600.

G. Bennett also asked about when Tball signups should start. The opening day will be last Saturday of April, M. Foster again said he can help with signups next week so they can start doing them as soon as possible. Opening day for Little League and TBall are the same day. They discussed doing a Hit-a-Thon for TBall kids. Currently they do a hit-a-thon for Little League. Consensus was in favor of doing a Hit-a-Thon for TBall, and the Commission discussed several details.

Adjournment

M. Cunningham moved to adjourn the meeting, D. Stone seconded the ***motion***, all in favor, ***motion*** carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 20, 2017 at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Marsden
Recording Clerk

Tape #21