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Town of North Reading
Massachusetts

Parks & Recreation Department

**Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes of
Monday, January 8, 2024
Town Hall Room 5 @ 6:45pm**

Attendance:

Committee Members: Ron Kern (RK), Pat Fillmore (PF), Rita Mullin (RM) Billie Luker (BL) William Cannell (BC)

Staff: Maria Brown (MB), Lillian Hartman (LH), Nancy Ursino (NU), Heidi Veader (HV)

Tardy: Lillian Hartman (LH) @6:54pm, Pat Fillmore (PF) @7:00pm

Absent: Sheila Sturdevant (SS) Marty Tilton (MT),

Call to order: @6:48 PM; Quorum, called by RK

Audience of Citizens: None

Acceptance of Minutes:

(BL) Made a motion to accept the minutes of December 4, 2023

(BC) Second the motion

NEW BUSINESS:- Nothing to report

OLD BUSINESS:- RK-Recapped mtg mins to fill in BC, RK mentioned of SC & MF for 20 years of their service on the rec committee and we all stood up to welcome in BC as he got sworn in today 1/8/24 as a new member.

OTHER BUSINESS: RM- To discuss/ vote on Wheeler 1 Chestnut Street Property/ Purchase. There is a town mtg on 1/30/24 in need of a quorum of 150 people required. RM had gone by the Wheeler house and spoke with the daughter Nancy and had asked if they would be interested in selling the home to the Town, she said she would speak with her brother & get back to her, so 2 hours later she received the call saying Yes that they would consider for the Town to purchase the property. We would buy it under Town not Parks Lands, it is only ½ acre. The TA Mike G will be getting it all in writing on Tuesday 1/9/24 then we can send out an email to the community to let them know about the mtg on 1/30/24 to attend.

RM asking if the Rec Committee would vote on the Wheeler property purchase

(RK) Made a motion to support the buying of 1 Central Street Wheeler property

(RM) Second the motion

Approved: 5 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0 Motion: PASSED

RK stated that we should thank the Wheeler family for working with us.

Parks & Recreation Meeting Minutes
Monday January 8, 2024
-Page-2- con't

IGC: RM stated on hold at this time, LH said there is mtg scheduled tomorrow 1/9/24 at the Sr Center with Veterans, Recreation, and Youth Services. BC had asked what is the IGC, so RK had explained it to him.

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR: MB highlighted the budget (see sheet attached) RM said to BC to go by the office sometime so MB can explain the budget & how P&R is run so he can understand it all more . MB passed in the FY25 budget, we are requesting for the Town to pick up the craftsman full salary, requested 2 seasonal salaries instead of 3, discussion was had regarding rec center repairs, fence repairs are completed, hockey boards still waiting on more bids, RM asked if Charlie could start on the hockey boards but MB stated that they were still awaiting on other bids to come in.

Objective for FY2025-

To continue to offer quality programs & events for all ages& abilities with family friendly prices.

Maintain Parks & sports fields at the highest quality standards.

Continue towards the completion of Kids Spot Playground

Assess parks for future improvements/projects.

Parks & Recreation continues to contribute towards planning of the IGC.

Recreation Director: NU had said that there was an article in the Transcript from Bob Ramsdell regarding Pickleball Club that he had scheduled a mtg on 1/3/24 at the Flint Memorial Library (40 ppl attended) . NU & MB had set up a mtg to meet with him to discuss what his plans will be, they let him know the policies & procedures of how things are run through programming in the Rec dept. we had 64 sessions of Pickleball in 2023 and we offer it 7 days a week, discussion was had by all committee members.
Winter programs are going well and we are working on the Spring/ Summer programs.

Parks Director:- Not present

LUC: RM said that Margie Salt & Kate are working on getting an appt for Kids Spot with the designer , next mtg will be held next week and they are hoping to get a few more members to sign up for their committee, they will talk about fundraising.

FONRPR: RM said there is not enough time to put together the Disney Character breakfast or the Wine & Food Social this year so it is on hold for now.

Committee Members 2024: RK said now we have BC as a new member and we do have 1 more spot available. MF & SC are no longer on the committee but we have treasured their

Parks & Recreation Meeting Minutes

Monday January 8, 2024

-Page-3- con't

time well spent with us over 20 years. RM said it wouldn't hurt to have people with building experience on the committee and such.

LH mtg with the designer on 1/22 if anyone is able to attend & BL & RK both said they would not be able to do so. LH stated to maybe invite the designer to the next mtg in February .

RM – Said Luke Roy, Sergio, Maria, & Lil to talk about designs & ideas also to see if we get the \$140K grant. LH stated that Margie Salt is not on the subcommittee that she is the consultant and that Lil , Marty & Sergio are the official stake holders.

RM had asked if anyone else wanted to be on the stake holders committee & Maria said she could assist Marty , so RK said for all to think about it and speak about it at the February meeting. RM also said that Warren Pearce & Luke Roy would be great also.

Next Meeting Date: February 5, 2024 @ 6:45 PM

Adjournment: @ 7:56 PM by RK

(PF) Made a motion to adjourn @ 7:56 PM

(BL) Second the motion.

Approved: 5 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0 Motion: PASSED