

Approved 5/22/07
HAMPDEN PARKS & RECREATION
MEETING MINUTES MAY 8, 2007

Meeting called to order at 7:37pm.

Attendance: Chris McDonald, Larry Forrest and Bob White. Mark Goossens arrived at 8:07pm. Also in attendance was Michael Cronin.

Minutes: The minutes from April 24, 2007 were read. Bob made a motion to accept the minutes from April 24, 2007 as read. Larry seconded. All in favor and so voted 3-0.

Bills: Reviewed and paid.

Fall Soccer 2007: Fall Soccer signups are going on now through May 31. Bob and Mike would like to hold evaluations for the U9 girls on June 6 & 7 to form an A team and a B team if enough girls sign up to form two teams. Wilbraham fall soccer tryouts are later in June so nobody will miss out if we cannot field a team. We currently have two U9 teams for spring soccer. We will have one U9 boys team. The current U10 and U11 girls probably will not have a team in the fall. Looking ahead to the fall, we should have one boys team and three girls teams. We may not need the large field. If we are going to use just the small field, we could possibly make a practice field as well. The current kindergarten program is going well with Rich DeMattia heading that up. The East Longmeadow League is very disorganized this year. The East Longmeadow teams usually do not have enough players and games have been changed without notice.

Spray Park: Chris made some calls to Chicopee and Westfield to inquire about the operation of their spray parks. Chicopee charges \$2/day, \$3/non-residents. Their park hours are 9-4pm during the week and 12-4 on the weekends. There is supervision and no snack bar. They will open on July 1 and close the third week of August. Their system is on sensors. They have season passes for \$10/\$20 non-resident. Westfield is just opening their park this year. They will open on June 2 and leave it open. There will not be a charge. The hours will be 10:30-8pm Monday through Thursday only. Their system is on a timer.

Spray Park Special Meeting: There will be a special meeting to discuss the operation of the Spray Park on May 15, 2007 at 7:30pm.

Park Restrooms: Tom McLaughlin is unable to open the restrooms this year. Larry made a motion to ask Claude Bisson to open the Park restrooms. Bob seconded. All in favor 4-0. Larry will ask Claude this week.

Baseball Issue 5/3/07: The Board reviewed the issues from the Bronco game on 5/3/07 between Walter McLaughlin's and Rick Kapinos' teams. The umpire sent in an email explaining what he had heard being said between the two coaches. There was also a concern from a parent that was discussed. The Board would like to bring in the two coaches in question as soon as possible to discuss the situation. The meeting will be on May 15. Bob will speak to the parent who has an issue. Mark will speak with the umpire, the coaches and John Flynn, the baseball coordinator.

Old Business: Town Insurance Coverage-The Selectmen's office sent information on the town insurance coverage per the Board's request. If the Parks & Recreation department sponsors a program, we are covered by the town insurance. Someone coming in to run a program needs to give us a copy of their insurance certificate. Larry will call the insurance company for more clarification.

Women's Summer Soccer-Bob made a motion to allow the women's soccer team to use the TWB field. They will pay the \$50/game fee up front and sign waivers. Larry seconded. All in favor and so voted 4-0. The Parks & Rec. department will line the fields. We will request a schedule of their games.

RAH Roof-Larry will contact the company that will be replacing the RAH building roof to see when the work can be done.

New Business: Trash barrels-Larry will pick up eight new trash barrels and chains for Memorial Park and TWB.

Library Request-The Library has asked to use the projector on Saturday for a program they are having. Mark made a motion to allow the Library to use the projector as requested. Bob seconded. All in favor and so voted 4-0.

Request from Sue Rauscher-Sue has made the Board aware of a family that may need financial help in sending three of their children to the summer program. We received two camperships last summer from the Federated Church and we may receive that again this summer. Also, RAH has funds available through scholarships for sport and summer program registrations for families that may need some help.

Softball-Larry informed the Board that a girl that was injured has been cleared by her doctor to play softball. Larry has a doctor's note and a note from the parents allowing the girl to play.

RAH building cleanup-Tabled to next meeting

Memorial Park Footbridge-Larry and Chris brought it to everyone's attention that there is a large hole on the pavilion side where the bridge meets the ground. Larry filled it in once already. Larry will cover the hole with wood until it can be fixed permanently.

Elections-Congratulations to Mark Goossens. The Board voted unanimously to keep Chris McDonald as Chairman and Larry Forrest as vice-chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Larry made a motion to adjourn at 9:55pm. Mark seconded. All in favor and so voted 4-0.

Special meeting: May 15, 2007 at 7:30pm

Regular meeting: May 22, 2007 at 7:30pm