

HAMPDEN PARKS & RECREATION
Meeting Minutes June 10, 2008
Town Hall

Meeting called to order at 7:40pm.

Members Present: Larry Forrest, Bob White and Mark Goossens. Rick Kapinos arrived approx. 8:30pm

Absent: Huck House

Also Present: Connie Witt

Minutes: The minutes from May 27, 2008 were read. Mark made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Bob seconded. All in favor 3-0.

Bills: Reviewed and paid.

Memorial Park: Connie Witt came to the meeting to express her concerns about the Park being unavailable to the public during the summer program hours of 9-2pm Monday through Friday July 7-August 15. She explained that she along with other people like to walk. There was a lengthy discussion about the safety concerns of the children who will be attending the summer program. Connie questioned the legality of the Park closing during certain times. She was given a copy of the letter from Town Counsel stating that the Parks & Recreation Board did have the right to regulate access to the park during the summer program sessions. Also brought up was the wooden sign from last summer that was put up to notify people coming in to the park that it would not be available during certain hours. Connie felt that the wording was harsh and that it should have been worded a little nicer and that the sign should have been smaller. For future notices Connie and Larry came up with new wording to accentuate the positive and say when the park is open, not when it is closed. Other future possibilities that were discussed were ID bracelets for the "campers" and security volunteers. The problem with the ID bracelets was that a different color would be needed for visitors and the color would have to be changed everyday and someone would have to be down at the park distributing and regulating the bracelets. The idea of volunteer security staff was discussed. Ten volunteers would be on a half day rotation schedule and patrol around the grounds of the park. If enough volunteers could commit to this the Board would be willing to discuss it. The Board thanked Connie for her input and suggestions. Connie thanked the Board for their time.

Spray Park Opening: Bob made a motion to open the spray park on June 14 from 10-7pm daily with a closing date to be determined later in the season. Mark seconded. All in favor and so voted 3-0.

Old Business:

Bleachers - Mark ordered the bleachers. They should be delivered next week.

Park Electricity – Bob checked with National Grid on the spray park meter usage. They could not tell him where the usage was coming from. Bob will check back again.

Fundraiser – The Ostrakis fundraiser will look into another location.

Newspaper Notice – Larry wrote up a thank you to Chris for his years of service to the Parks & Recreation Commission. The Board reviewed it. Rick made a motion to put the write up in the paper as amended. Mark seconded. All in favor and so voted 4-0.

Park Bridge – Mark will look at the bridge to see if there is some preventative maintenance that can be done. He will check on materials. Bob will help.

Park Sign – Mark put the Memorial Park Sign back up. One of the posts is loose or broken below the ground and the sign is splintered. Mark feels that it should stay up for a while.

CORI – Larry spoke with Wilbraham Park & Recreation about their CORI process. They have one head person who receives any results and makes decisions. The head person can meet with the applicant, not the Board. Huck will be our CORI officer. Guidelines will be set for Huck to follow.

New Business:

Fall Soccer – Two U11 girls dropped out so there will not be a need for tryouts. The team has the maximum number of 18 players.

Spray Park Maintenance – The board members will meet at the Park this Saturday morning at 8:30am to go over backwashing the system.

Bob made a motion to adjourn at 9:39pm. Mark seconded. All in favor 4-0.

Next meetings: June 24, 2008 at **7:30pm**
July 8, 2008 at **7:30pm**

Submitted by Deborah House, Clerk