

HAMPDEN PARKS & RECREATION
Meeting Minutes September 23, 2014
Town House

Approved October 14, 2014

Marty called the meeting called to order at 7:29pm

Members Present: Marty McQuade, Vice-Chair, Dave Paradis (9:16), Terry Ford and Dave Turcotte

Members Absent: -none-

Also Present: Bruce Ostrander, Stacy Black, Selectman John Flynn and Tyler Witkop, Correspondent, Wilbraham –Hampden Times

Bills: reviewed and signed

Mail: -none-

Minutes: The minutes from the September 9, 2014 meeting were reviewed.

Marty made a motion to approve the special minutes as amended. Terry seconded. All in favor, 3 to 0.

Agenda Items:

Bruce Ostrander: Mr Ostrander came in to discuss several concerns about coaches, coaching and incidents involving both himself and his two sons in both baseball and basketball over the past few years. The commissioners listened to and discussed Mr Ostrander's concerns with him. He also stated that he was 'glad that Fred Frangie is no longer president' and that he is 'embarrassed for the rest of the Park & Rec commissioners.' Mr Ostrander then went on to address Terry Ford about an incident with Mr Ostrander's son where Terry Ford had to physically intervene to stop Mr Ostrander's son from what Terry Ford stated was 'attempting to pummel my child' Terry then stated that he had 'every right to protect his child' and that after this incident that Mr Ostrander's son had 'dropped the F- bomb on him' and that the child's mother, Heather Turcotte, 'had apologized to him' for her son swearing. Terry went on to state that he had 'a right to keep kids from fighting.'

Marty McQuade asked Mr Ostrander what he was asking the board for & Mr Ostrander replied that 'no one touches the children physically' Mrs Black added that this incident had 'definitely happened' and that her husband had seen it and felt that Terry Ford's son was antagonizing two other children including Mr Ostrander's child. Mr Ostrander again repeated 'don't touch my child again.'

Marty McQuade asked Mr Ostrander what he wanted from the board, Mr Ostrander replied that he wanted 'Fred never to be a coach again' and also asked the commissioners to watch the coaches and that whoever coaches his sons not to touch his children physically again. Terry Ford responded with 'So we let kids beat each other up?' At which point Mr Ostrander remarked 'You're sad' and Terry replied with 'You're clueless' Mrs Black added that 'No one on the board thinks there is anything wrong with their child.' Mr Ostrander stated 'I see a pattern here' Marty McQuade responded with the only pattern is you. Mr Ostrander stated that he was telling the truth to which Marty replied that the only one who knows the truth is God. Mr Ostrander responded to Marty McQuade that he was surprised that you, (Marty) would mention God. Mr Ostrander then stated that this was 'not over yet' and that he still 'may bring a lawsuit to town' Dave Turcotte interjected that going forward if anything happens Mr Ostrander should contact Cindi (Admin), and that we 'have a process to follow' Mr Ostrander stated that he had 'tried to make amends.'

At this time Mrs Black added that she wanted the board to know that she was upset that they had allowed Lisa to coach again. That she felt it was unacceptable and that she knew the only reason was because no one else volunteered to coach.

Dave Turcotte asked if 'we could put the shoe on the other foot' Mrs Black replied that she 'would figure out a way to coach even with her illness.'

Mr Ostrander interjected 'one more thing; please don't touch my son. I don't want bad blood'

At this time both Mrs Black and Mr Ostrander left the meeting.

The commissioners addressed the W-H Times correspondent and asked if he had any questions for them. He responded that it 'seems like old stuff.' Marty McQuade commented that it was 'historical stuff.'

Selectman John Flynn came in to speak with the commissioners about a letter that was sent to three Raymond Drive residents and the Selectmen in regards to a meeting that the residents had attended and spoken to the Parks Commissioners at. From the Select Boards standpoint, there is no question of the Parks & Recreation jurisdiction over both Memorial and Gerish parks, Thornton W Burgess and Green Meadows schools after school hours. The Select Board is concerned however, with the fact that some boards have a contentious issue with the construction at the Hampden Country Club. They feel that the Parks Commissioners may have been misled with the unverified information that was presented in regards to the location of the Tee box, and that the action taken by the Parks & Recreation Commission may have been a little rushed. Previous Parks & Recreation Commissioners have addressed the same situation.

Marty McQuade responded that the letter didn't 'make us look bad the dumpster and Vinny paving the cart path did.' He also asked if the Raymond Drive residents concerns were brought to the Select Board and Selectman Flynn responded no. Selectman Flynn stated that the Select Board is only concerned with the letter, not the actions of the board, and that the letter could have been phrased better. Dave T asked what the ultimate damage was and Selectman Flynn said the letter could be taken as defaming HCC. Terry Ford responded that you cannot 'defame a company, only a person.' Selectman Flynn stated that the BOS met last night and is trying to take care of all interested parties, Hampden Country Club, the town, and TWB School.

The commissioners and Selectman Flynn then discussed school and sports enrollments and vacancies on committees, the Parks & Recreation Commission, sports coordinators and liaisons.

Popcorn Maker: HP&R received a request from the Theater Guild to use the popcorn maker for a production at TWB for the dates of 09/26, 09/27, 09/28 and 10/03, 10/04 and 10/05. Other than 10/03, when the Police Department will have the use of the machine for the Hampden Night Out, the commissioners agreed to loan the machine to the Theatre Guild.

Safety Night/RAH: RAH will have a table set up at Safety Night and will have popcorn maker set up.

Requests for Financial Assistance/Scholarships: *Marty made a motion to accept the requests for financial assistance. Terry Ford seconded. All in favor 4 to 0.*

Resignations: Resignations were reviewed and open positions will be posted on the Hampden Rec website, at the schools and on the department Facebook page. Admin will notify Board of Selectmen of vacancy on board via letter.

Soccer:

At the last meeting it was decided to collect the jerseys at the end of the season. Terry Ford notified the board that ELYSL will be changing to MLS jerseys for the spring season.

Terry motioned to allow players to keep WCS jerseys. Dave T seconded. All in favor 3 to 0.

A refund request was received from the parent of a player who registered for spring soccer but had a schedule conflict and now has a schedule conflict with fall soccer.

Terry motioned to allow refund. Dave T seconded. All in favor 3 to 0.

Pavilion: A spreadsheet of comparative costs was given to commissioners. Dave T recommended Skips for the construction of the pavilion. Dave P questioned if Dave T had spoken to Paul McNaughton and Dave T replied that he had. At this time Dave T recused himself and left the meeting/room so that the commissioners had time to review and discuss excavation bids.

Marty made a motion to award excavation, stone pad and footings bid to Billy Wilson and pavilion construction bid to Skips. Dave P seconded. All in favor 3 to 0.

The trench for electrical will be revisited in the spring.

Dave T instructed admin to call Skips and Billy Wilson to notify them of bid acceptance and congratulate them, and to notify other bidders and thank them.

Playscape: Trassig will be here on Thursday at 12pm to view the current playscape area.

Information: Admin directed to update department website and provide information to update town website with mission statement, sports philosophy and office hours.

Budget Reviewed

Meeting Minutes Reviewed

Program Review: Reviewing programs of surround communities. Discussed potentially adding Zumba, yoga, meditation classes

Sani-Can: Admin will contact Hampden Septic for pricing with weekly service through November 1, 2014. *Dave P motioned to approve Sani-Can @TWB with cost not to exceed \$300. Dave T seconded. All in favor 4 to 0.*

Phone Log: Reviewed. Admin directed to check with Republic Services for bin sizes offered.

Email Etiquette: Keep emails to business, no Parks & Recreations decisions can be made by email, fact findings can be reported, (who, what, where, when, why) no discussion, no opinions via email

Administrative Assistant: Admin asked commissioners if they had any questions in regards to her job description, job duties, schedule, etc

Election of Officers:

Dave Paradis nominated Marty McQuade as chair of P&R commission.
Dave T seconded the nomination.
Marty accepted the nomination, all board members in favor.

Marty nominated Dave T as CPC representative from P&R commission.
Dave P seconded the nomination.
Dave T accepted the nomination, all board members in favor.

Dave Paradis nominated Terry Ford as vice chair of P&R commission.
Marty seconded the nomination.
Terry accepted the nomination, all board members in favor

New Business: Complaint received from Colin Drury, East Longmeadow Recreation Director in regards to issues with coaches. Terry spoke with both coaches and based on his investigations he feels that this is “not our coaches.”

Safety Night: RAH would like a sports registration donation
Dave T moves to donate a sports registration to RAH for Safety Night raffle. Dave P seconded. All in favor 4 to 0

Basketball: Suburban registrations reviewed.

Dave P made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:43pm, Dave T seconded. All in favor 4-0.

Next meeting October 14th @ 7:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindi Connors,
Administrative Assistant