

BELCHERTOWN PARKS & RECREATION PUBLIC MEETING
Oct. 5, 2016

Present: Chris Daley, Bill Vosburgh, Nancy Kwiatkowski, Tilo Schiffer, Kyle Thibeault, Linda Racicot

Absent: Brenda Aldrich

Public Meeting called to order at 6:04 p.m.

Wilbur Quirk arrived 6:20 p.m.

Guests in attendance: Jeremy Leblond, Will Porter, Bret Lore, Richard Poissant



>Kyle welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. He explained this meeting was to invite all residents interested, and gather and discuss details regarding the Friends of the Rec. The Friends of the Rec would be a group of Belchertown residents who come together to discuss and decide on fundraisers that would benefit the Recreation Department. He also explained BOAA, Belchertown Orioles Athletics Association has offered the Friends of the Rec. to merge under the BOAA umbrella. BOAA has expressed, this would be a nice transition for those involved with Friends of the Rec who have young children to then become members of BOAA as their children enter high school. This would entail BOAA changing their by-laws to include the Friends of the Rec.

>Wilbur stated as a member of BOAA, the organization has raised well over \$100K for sports in the high school, which include benches for the stadium, banners in the gym, a four wheeler for softball, sports equipment/uniforms and summer soccer. Members of BOAA include Christina Aponte, Jennifer Gariepy, Wilbur Quirk and Matt Stenius. Wilbur explained any sport with the exception of Football & Hockey can fill out an application (grant) to request funding. To his knowledge, no one has ever been denied.

>Kyle explained fundraising for the needs of the Recreation Dept. could benefit big and/or small projects. Small projects may include new dugouts being constructed, equipment and/or first aid kits purchased and equipment needed to provide handicap accessibility at the pool. Large projects may include creating additional fields due to losing the State School fields, a design and construction for the condemned tennis courts area and to improve the existing Foley Field area.

>Wilbur added suggestions for fundraising would be tournaments, involvement at the Belchertown Fair, Halloween events and concession stands.

>Kyle said due to Town employee ethics, the Rec Dept. cannot participate in fundraising. Friends of the Rec would allow participation in the yearly Cold Springs fundraiser and ask for specific sponsorship among other fundraising already discussed. Kyle added the Recreation Committee would assign a Committee member to be the liaison for this group.

>Bill thanked everyone for coming. He said a meeting will be scheduled to discuss options for anyone interested in forming a Friend of the Rec group and everyone present will be notified of the meeting date.

>Bill called for an executive session with the Recreation Committee.

Public meeting adjourned 7:00 p.m.

BELCHERTOWN PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Oct. 5, 2016

Bill Vosburgh proceeded with a ROLL CALL: Chris Daley, Nancy Kwiatkowski, Tilo Schiffer, Wilbur Quirk, Also PRESENT: Kyle Thibeault, Linda Racicot

Bill made a motion to move from executive to an open session, *Nancy seconded and motion passed 5-0-0*

Meeting called to order at 7:15 p.m.

REVIEW MINUTES

Minutes from Sept. 14 2016 meeting were reviewed.

Nancy made a motion to accept the minutes from the Sept. meeting, *Tilo seconded, and motion passed 5-0-0.*

OLD BUSINESS

>Kyle informed the Committee Foley Field has been seeded and in good shape.

>Nancy asked where we stand on a CPC grant.

>Kyle stated that he was in the process of getting quotes for the dugouts at CHCS. He would like to submit two grant applications, one for the back field dugouts and one for the front field dugouts. Kyle added, he would like to consider submitting other applications, one being a large net behind one of the soccer goals at Constantino field. He stated the balls kicked behind the goal fall into a ravine and into the woods.

>Kyle asked if it was possible to apply for a grant to have two trees removed from the Town Beach parking lot. The roots have destroyed the paved parking lot and it's a safety issue with branches falling.

>Wilbur said he would look into it.

>Nancy said she would contact Northern Tree and she would get a quote to have the trees cut.

>Wilbur reminded everyone that the grants must be submitted by Dec. 19.

>Bill stated he would contact Steve on the Highway Dept. regarding road millings for the entrance to Foley Field.

>Kyle said he is in the process of getting a quote for a disc golf course. After speaking with a disc golf designer, creating a course does not have to include permanent structures which could lower the construction cost.

>Nancy said it may not happen overnight however if the community expresses an interest, it was something to look into.

NEW BUSINESS

>Bill stated officers will be nominated as of July 1 every year.

New Officers nominated as of Oct 5 will hold the position until July 1, 2017

Wilbur nominated Bill as the new Chairperson, *Tilo seconded and motion passed 4-0-0*

Wilbur nominated Nancy as the new Vice Chair, *Chris seconded and motion passed 4-0-0*

Bill nominated Tilo as the new Clerk, *Chris seconded and motion passed 4-0-0*

Nancy nominated Wilbur as the CPC Representative, *Tilo seconded and motion passed 4-0-0*

Wilbur nominated Nancy as the new Friends of the Rec liaison, *Tilo seconded and motion passed 4-0-0*

Bill nominated Nancy to the new Conduct Board, *Wilbur seconded and motion passed 4-0-0*

Bill nominated Chris to the new Conduct Board, *Wilbur seconded and motion passed 4-0-0*

Bill nominated Tilo to the new Conduct Board, *Wilbur seconded and motion passed 4-0-0*

Bill recommended Linda to take meeting minutes and was agreed upon by all members.

DIRECTORS REPORT

>Kyle stated the movie night at the beach was a success with approximately 80 paid participants and a couple dozen under age children with free entrance. With the movie licensing charge, rental equipment charge, collected gate fee and profit at the concession stand, the Recreation Dept. broke out even.

>Fall Instructional Soccer has 17 teams with approximately 10 kids per team. Numbers are down from years past possibly due to Cold Spring Soccer accepting second graders and entering a U8 division. Cold Springs has approximately 30 players in the U8 division.

>Kyle stated he has received two applications for Suburban coaches. Kyle expressed his concern with the low number of players who may be trying out for Suburban.

>Chris asked why that is.

>Kyle replied the community is conflicted between Suburban and CYO. Kyle stated everything he has heard indicates players/parents put more focus on placing players with friends rather than the appropriate skill levels.

>Chris suggested Kyle approach parents at the Suburban tryouts and explain that the Suburban league in Belchertown has always drawn the highest caliber of players. All players trying out are evaluated on skill and it doesn't matter what organization/league they have been involved with in the past, the best athletes will be selected for the Suburban team.

>Kyle stated St. Francis CYO basketball is now accepting second graders which will potentially cause our numbers to go down.

>All Recreation Committee members agreed to recommend those interested in joining the Friends of the Rec merge with BOAA for at least the first year.

>The meeting will be held on Nov. 9th from 6:00-6:30 pm at the Rec Center for anyone interested in joining Friends of the Rec. BOAA members will be invited to discuss their by-laws and answer any questions.

>Next Recreation Committee meeting is Wednesday, Nov. 9th at 6:30 p.m. in the Recreation Conference Room.

Tilo made a motion to adjourn. *Chris seconded, motion passed 5-0-0.*

Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.