

BELCHERTOWN PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
July 13, 2016

Present: Chris Daley, Bill Vosburgh, Tilo Schiffer, Kyle Thibeault, Linda Racicot, John Soja, Brenda Aldrich

Absent: Nancy Kwiatkowski

Meeting called to order by Bill at 6:15 p.m.

Wilbur Quirk arrived 6:23

#### REVIEW MINUTES

Minutes from June 15, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Chris made a motion to accept the minutes from the June meeting, *Bill seconded, and motion passed 3-0-0.*

Brenda Aldrich was welcomed as the new liaison.

Kyle Thibeault was welcomed as the new Director.

#### OLD BUSINESS

>Brenda stated there is a concern regarding the puddles on the reconditioned outdoor basketball court.

>Kyle responded, the reconditioning took place before he was hired but from his understanding, it would have cost \$30K plus to include leveling the court. The primary concern was to fill the cracks and replace the top layer so that the court did not become condemned. The Recreation Dept. did not have the funds to include leveling the court. The puddling is an issue that he addressing.

>Kyle stated, he and John went to the Conservation meeting regarding the Foley Field plan for the 10K. The plan was approved with stipulations.

#### NEW BUSINESS

>Bill stated a vote needs to be taken to approve a "Friends of the Rec" along with determining if the Friends of the Rec will allocate funds and donate to various needs within the community or fundraise for a specific project.

>Kyle stated having a Friends of the Rec should help to raise money starting off with small projects and then possible consider a larger project, such as the Tennis courts, in the future. Kyle then explained the process of the Booster Club in Granby.

>Brenda stated the Friends of the Rec should be non-profit.

>Tilo explained that a non-profit group should have their own bank account, a 501C3.

>Kyle said a private group is in control of their own funds. The Recreation Dept. doesn't have funds to make significant improvements or develop new.

>Brenda asked that a group be formed to specifically help the Recreation Dept. She remembered a group when Ron was the Director and asked if it dissolved.

>Tilo said yes.

>Chris asked if anyone was interested in joining Friends of the Rec

>Bill said he thought Matt Jackson would be interested. Bill asked how many should be on the Committee.

>Tilo stated he felt five committee members would be good.

>Wilbur stated that Jenn Gariepy & Christine Aponte are involved with BOAA and thought the Committee should consider merging with BOYA. Wilbur offered to contact BOAA and see if there was an interest to merge.

>Tilo stated he felt it would be a good idea to merge BOAA and Friends of the Rec.

>Bill asked if the bathrooms at the tennis courts were in working order. He would like to offer Little League the bathrooms during their tournament.

>Kyle said they are in working order and would make them presentable for Little League.

>Wilbur stated CPC will be meeting in September however there will not be a lot of funds available for the next couple of years.

>Bill asked that everyone come to the next committee meeting with suggestions to submit a CPC grant.

>Wilbur asked that the committee keep in mind that although it does not have to be a 50/50 shared cost but may help to include some cost.

>Brenda stated regarding the superintendent building, Gary is working with a consultant regarding the 5.2 acres.

>Chris said the cost of elevators is a quarter of a million.

>Kyle said he spoke with Gary who said if the land was to be bought it would be for recreational services.

>Breanda said they were still waiting to hear from the Governor and hopefully by September we will hear.

#### DIRECTORS REPORT

>Kyle stated that his first couple of weeks has gone well. The Recreation Dept. is moving forward with Myrec.com to offer on line registrations this fall. Kyle is working closely with John on this project and feels that the benefits to on line registration will far out way any issues they may have with the startup of the software.

>Chris asked if participants would still be able to register at the office.

>Kyle stated have an on line system will be a change for people. Everyone must go on line and create a user name & password. For those who don't have access to a computer, we are looking into having a computer available at the office for the public.

>Chris asked if the program will accept emails.

>Kyle said the software will ask for an email however there is a box that can be checked if you choose to opt out.

>Chris stated that he hears all the time from people that they missed the sign ups.

>John stated the software has functionality for several different options.

>Kyle stated he is also working closely with Linda to create new and different programs and the two will focus to offer additional adult programs as well. Kyle said they were now looking into a movie night down at the beach and possible continuing in the fall if people are interested.

>Chris asked what the attendance is at the beach.

>Kyle stated approximately 100 season passes were purchased.

>Chris asked what the recent results are for water testing.

>John said due to the lack of rain and no geese, the water quality is very good.

>John added that there are a lot of daily campers visiting also. John said he purchased signs and is working with Steve Williams to have them posted on the road.

>Chris asked how the fields look.

>Kyle responded that unfortunately they are all burnt.

>John added that maintenance work is slow; we can't spread loam to level the fields along with spreading seed due to the weather conditions.

>Kyle said that he is excited to contact organizations within the community and work together for the youth. He would like to spend some time focusing on big projects, such as the tennis court, renovating the bathrooms/concession area and the surrounding property which would create a great complex with a big impact on the community. Kyle informed the committee he would be spending time the next couple of weeks working on a 1-5-10 year plan that he would present at the next meeting.

>Bill suggested a subcommittee be formed to work with Kyle on a 5 year plan.

Next meeting is Wednesday Sept. 14, 2016 at 6:15 p.m. in the Recreation Conference Room.

Chris made a motion to adjourn. *Tilo seconded, motion passed 4-0-0.*

Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.