

# BELCHERTOWN PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Sept. 14, 2016

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

Absent: Brenda Aldrich

Meeting called to order by Bill at 6:10 p.m.

Wilbur Quirk arrived 6:40 p.m.

## REVIEW MINUTES

Minutes from July 13, 2016 meeting were reviewed.

>Chris stated clarification needed to be made in reference to the former Patrick Center. The renovating cost was approximately \$250K not the elevator cost.

Chris made a motion to accept the minutes from the July meeting, *Tilo seconded, and motion passed 3-0-0.*

## COMMUNITY IMPUT

>Bill commented that Christina Aponte & Jennifer Gariepy associated with BOAA (Belchertown Orioles Athletic Association) could not attend.

## OLD BUSINESS

>Kyle informed the Committee that Nelson Garrow & Sons just completed leveling the section of Foley Field and planned to seed next week.

>Kyle passed out copies of letters for those who expressed an interest in joining the Friends of the Rec. committee. He said he knew of a few people that have not submitted a letter yet and of those who did submit a letter, there are two that he has not personally met yet.

>Nancy asked if there will be a term for those on the committee.

>Kyle explained this group has the option of filing a 501(C)(3) under the Friends of the Rec or joining BOAA. Both, great organizations however the Rec has no jurisdiction with BOAA and feels the Friends of the Rec would focus on the department's needs.

>Tilo expressed merging with BOAA may be beneficial. The kids eventually go to the High School so you have the longevity of committee members.

>Wilbur stated if a merge was considered, BOAA would revise bylaws and if the Friends of the Rec wanted to file a 501(C)(3), BOAA would do that.

>Tilo asked if the Friends of the Rec would have their own checkbook.

>Wilbur stated yes.

>Tilo offered to get more details regarding a 501(C)(3). He also mentioned he would like to look into a charter.

>Wilbur stated that BOAA has raised over \$10K in the past, running a booth and parking cars on fair weekend. BOAA donates to those who fill out a grant and have never refused anyone. Wilbur suggested that people interested, along with the Rec Committee should consider meeting with BOAA to discuss options.

>Bill stated the Committee should look into a Charter.

>Kyle asked the Committee to consider fundraisers and goals. He suggested organizing a soccer tournament.

>Nancy said she thought forming Friends of the Rec and creating one large fundraiser would be best.

>Bill stated that the Committee needs to look into a Charter.

>Kyle expressed that the letters of interest applied to the Friends of the Rec and he felt it necessary to involve them with the decision on whether to merge with BOAA or not.

- >Wilbur said BOAA will respect whatever decision is made.
  - >Nancy said her concern was the financial end of it.
  - >Wilbur explained in regards to the BOAA, Jennifer Gariepy is a certified public accountant however the financials are handled by someone else just for transparency.
  - >Bill stated board members would need to be appointed, new bylaws would need to be established and a liaison from the Rec Committee would need to be assigned.
  - >Nancy offered to be the liaison.
  - >Bill suggested inviting BOAA, those who submitted a letter for Friends of the Rec and any community members interested in joining to meet Oct. 5 at 6 p.m. with a Recreation Committee meeting following.
  - >Tilo asked that a notice for a public meeting be advertised in the Sentinel.
  - >Wilbur mentioned that he has a meeting with the High School AD, Jenn and Christina the following morning in regards to running a corn hole tournament and would let them know about the meeting.
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- >Wilbur suggested if the Committee was interested in submitting for a CPA (Community Preservation Act) grant, it should be decided soon.
  - >Kyle asked for an explanation regarding the criteria.
  - >Wilbur replied basically everything falling under recreation, maintenance/repair. Wilbur offered to help Kyle write a grant.
  - >Kyle suggested that a grant be written to repair the dugouts at CHCS.
  - >Bill agreed he feels the fence is unsafe and suggested emphasizing that in the grant application.
  - >Nancy also agreed adding that the dugouts were built over 20 years ago through fundraising that she and Tilo were involved with.
  - >Wilbur feels writing a grant for dugouts is a good idea.
  - >Kyle also recommended submitting a grant to continue leveling Foley Field. He explained his long term goal is to level and create a new baseball diamond in one corner of the field. Once a diamond is developed, the existing diamond would be leveled and seeded, which would create a larger area for open field space.
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- >Bill asked if the Highway Dept. has put mill at the entrance and road leading into Foley.
  - >Kyle said no.
  - >Bill stated he would follow up on that.
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- >Kyle said the survey asking what the community would like to see developed at the old tennis courts was complete. The #1 result was a splash park/basketball courts. #2 was an indoor multipurpose facility. Kyle went to Buttery Brook in South Hadley to look at their splash park and was surprised at how small it was. He would like to see a pavilion also included in a design to rent for parties. Kyle contacted Mike Davidsohn, who lives in Belchertown and teaches landscape architecture. For a very reasonable price he would include his students and design the area.
  - >Chris said looking at a multipurpose facility could cost approximately \$5 million.
  - >Kyle stated that Soccer City in Wilbraham and the indoor facility in Northampton were the only two in the area. Teams rent the facility for 8 games at the cost of \$900.
  - >Chris asked if the town would give money for such a facility. He feels it is possible just wondered if the community would vote for it.
  - >Nancy stated the library was voted down however Belchertown seems to have a large interest in sports.
  - >Tilo expressed a facility would pay for itself within five years.
  - >Chris stated there would be a need for private investors.
  - >Kyle asked the Committee to consider the tennis court location and if the public really wants to be looking at a building in that area or if the public would rather see an outdoor complex. He said he would support whatever the decision was for that area, he would only ask that the development be done correctly, without cutting corners, something that would be maintenance and repair free for years to come.

- >Nancy asked how many acres the area included.
- >Chris stated 8 or 9.
- >Bill asked if a grant was possible.
- >Kyle responded that it would depend on the design, steel vs a bubble car port type.
- >Kyle suggested the Committee consider the options and if the decision is an outdoor facility, would they consider applying for a CPA grant to recondition the bathrooms.
  
- >Chris asked if there was an update on the Patrick Center.
- >Kyle stated that the sale has gone through and the town now owns the building. He spoke with Gary Brougham and a piece of the land will be Rec managed property.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- >Nancy stated that she and Tilo were on the committee involved with burying a time capsule in 1987. They met with the Water Dept. to find the marker for the metal, cylinder time capsule however they were not able to locate it. Tilo will contact the gentlemen who designed it and would like to find the capsule before the areas torn up.
  
- >Nancy stated Little League now has a baseball diamond at Jabish Brook School and asked if the Rec had any information regarding this.
- >Linda explained that Little League has one team of older kids who entered the Harvest Baseball League and requires a 90' baseball diamond. Little League has a 60' diamond at Fenway and Foley along with a 70' at Foley. Little League offered to recondition the 90' diamond at Jabish in exchange for its use.
  
- >Tilo asked Kyle if he knew the group who had a fundraiser at Cold Spring Country Club.
- >Kyle explained several private youth sports organizations in Belchertown joined for an evening fundraiser. All proceeds at the door were split between the organizations and each organization had their own fundraiser of items displayed for a silent action. Kyle said, the Recreation Dept. will be given a donation for our efforts with advertising for this event. In the future Friends of the Rec, would be able to participate in the action of a fundraiser whereas the Rec Dept. is not allowed to participate in fundraisers.
  
- >Kyle explained he has been compiling information regarding disc golf. A game similar to the concept of golf but instead of golf balls, frisbees are used and instead of holes in the ground, baskets are used. He continued it's rapidly becoming popular with several courses being developed for Men's leagues. His plan is to meet with Conservation and discuss three areas as potential courses, Piper Farm, behind Jabish Brook School and recreation land off of Rte. 21. The course can be designed by using trails that already exist. Developing a course centrally located next to a school would allow the Rec to apply for a grant and give access to physical education classes to utilize. Kyle continued that courses are generally free to the public however the Recreation Dept. could run tournaments to generate funds. It's approximately \$16K for an 18 hole course and Mike Phaneuf who is an avid player who would be willing offer assistance.
- >Nancy felt Piper Farm maybe the area to look into. She asked if that would fall under the Rec for a CPA grant.
- >Wilbur said creating a new development would be capital.
  
- >Kyle stated that the High School has donated a water canon for Rec use to irrigate the CHCS fields. The hose did not fit the water pipe and he spoke with the Water District Superintendent who said it would not work.
  
- >Bill asked when the Committee assigns new board of director positions.

>Kyle said he will look at the policy and procedures regarding that.

#### DIRECTORS REPORT

>Kyle stated that the movie on the beach was a success with approximately 80 participants not including children under 3 years of age. Kyle added, the Rec will consider offering another movie night in October.

>Kyle said the Glow in the Dark Beach Volleyball with a maximum of 36 participants filled weeks prior to the event and was also a success with approximately 60 people observing with a few parents who asked the Rec to offer an adult league.

Next meeting is Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. open to the public, at the Recreation Center immediately followed by an executive session with the Recreation Committee in the Recreation Conference room.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.