

**NEWINGTON PARKS & RECREATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TUESDAY, April 7, 2015**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Don Woods called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm

II. ROLL CALL

Board: Eileen Francolino, Mary Udice, Ed Marchion, Jen Win-Johnson, Don Woods, Ken Leggo, Bill DeBlasio

Board Members Absent: Robert Fresen, Beth Manke, Richard Khentigan

Staff: Superintendent Bruce Till, Karen Gallichio

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF December 9, 2014

Ken Leggo made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2014 meeting. Bill DeBlasio seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 7-0 vote.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

NONE

V. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS

From the Superintendent:

Bruce covered the budget that was submitted to the town manager, operating budget and special revenue fund, the CIP budget and staff input. The Town Manager asked for a 3% cut to the general fund budget of the Parks and Rec dept. equivalent to \$40,000 out of Parks and Recreation Department. The cuts were made to the summer help and seasonal part time help, one person from each department was cut. As of now nothing has been restored by the Council. Capital budget for Parks and Recreation was cut by \$100,000 and given to the Board of Education. This will have impact on what is trying to be accomplished this coming year.

Busy winter season, active programs. Sharon and Karen did a great job with programs. The Basketball program had over 600 children and also an adult program. Very challenging with the winter season this year, leaking roof in gym, arrangements were made so travel could use the High School.

The Park Department was busy with all the snow storms, clearing all sidewalks in town and parking lots.

Bruce has been involved with building committee since last meeting. He gave presentations and let them know what priorities are needed for a community center. The building committee has the latest drawings.

There is a new Building Maintenance employee on board. Bruce has been working closely with him on many projects.

Kelsey will be helping out in the office while Sharon is on maternity leave and on her flex schedule.

Bruce's position: He has spoken with the Manager to have his position remain as Superintendent of Parks to keep the department whole and not having it split up. This is how the Manager will keep it. The position has been posted/advertised and there have been several applicants. The closing is in June. It may take a while to find a replacement.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Chapel:

The chapel addition should be done by end of May. A lot of work was done before winter. In working with new building maintenance employee, he was able keep this job under budget so some updates can be done to existing chapel, doors, carpet and landscaping.

Budget:

CIP Budget was cut \$100,000. Bruce has talked to the Manager about things that need to be address. Six sand filters at Church Hill pool need to be replaced to take care of the flow requirement and is required by the Health and State department. Bruce recommends that the Manager use some money that was rolled over from the past year to get the filters replaced before the summer season. Bruce has received three quotes from three different pool manufacturers. Lester is to contact Weston Sampson and show them what the Parks and Rec department plan on doing with the pool and have them write off on this stating that it will take care of the flow problem. Nothing will be done until they get the write off from Weston and Sampson and the pool manufacturer that is going to do the job. Also recommended to the Manager was the \$80,000 for resurfacing the playscape and additional money about \$200,000, which will be up to Commission and the person who takes over Bruce's position to decide what to do with those monies.

Extravaganza:

Bruce handed out packets, needs the Commissions to help get sponsorship for the event. Everything else is in good shape, there is a list of everyone's responsibilities within the department. Karen, Sharon and Michelle are working on the extravaganza. Major contracts have been or will be signed.

Building Committee/Town Hall Renovation:

Don Woods asked Councilor Marocchini which direction the building committee will be going with the gyms for the Town Hall/Community Center Renovation. Jim Marocchini thinks that most of the committee members are in favor of two gyms. Town Hall/Community Center Renovation could take as long as 36 months to be completed. If the whole building was to be demolished and start over, everyone will have to be relocated. The best square footage for the gyms would be to put them both on the west side of the building. The cost would be approximately 37 million dollars for the renovations. Bruce recommends all members of this Commission be a strong voice on this project.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

RFP – Church Hill Park & Church Hill Pool:

Church Hill Park is out dated, and the flow needs to be changed. Flagging and an Environmental Impact Study of the Church Hill property will be done. This will range from the Park to Clem Lemiere. Bruce has a drawing with the boundary lines. A contract has been awarded to do the soil analysis and wetland analysis and part of the environmental impact study has been done. No architect has been chosen to do the conceptual drawings on the renovation of the whole park. Bruce spoke with Don and he will be giving Don the RFP material from the architect. Bruce has spoken to Jeff Baron on which firms he is recommending. Don will be the temporary point person for this project. Bruce's vision was to do something with the pool make it smaller, leisure pool with splash park and renovate the entire park. Bruce has money but there will not be enough for playscape, was taken out of the CIP.

Extras:

Don questioned hours on monthly report two different figures of \$44.10 per hour and \$34.33 per hour for snow and ice removal. Bruce believes it is Saturday and Sunday rates double time versus and Time and half.

Dan Gallicchio, a longtime member and Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Department has passed away. Don wants to consider doing a tribute for his services, ie: a bench.

Golf Tournament: Bruce spoke with Michelle, they have most of their sponsorship, still waiting to hear from the major platinum sponsor from last year. Golf registration to this date is 23 golfers, hoping to have more once the weather picks up. Bob Gay is looking to push the registration up to 100 golfers. Michelle is working on a few new twists for the tournament, contests and giveaways.

Eileen wanted to express her gratitude to Kathy Zolad for her time and service on the Board of Commission for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Don and everyone at the meeting expressed their gratitude and appreciation to Bruce for his time and service as Superintendent of the Parks and Recreation Department.

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: A motion was made by Bill DeBlasio. Eileen Francolino, seconded the motion, all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm with a 7-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Jay