

Minutes
Alton Parks and Recreation Commission
August 21, 2008
A.V.A.S. Building, 6:30pm

Members Present: William Lionetta, Gerry Theodora, Cydney Johnson.

Staff Present: Kellie Troendle

Call To Order

W. Lionetta called the Meeting to order at 6:45pm.

Approval of Agenda

C. Johnson made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented; motion was seconded by G. Theodora and passed.

Approval of Minutes 3-13-08 and 7-10-08

The March 13, 2008 Minutes could not be approved by the members present at the meeting because there was not a quorum of members present that was also present at the 3/13/08 meeting. C. Johnson made a motion to approve the Minutes of July 10, 2008 as presented, motion was seconded by W. Lionetta and passed.

Public Input

There was no public input.

Old Business

Adult Softball Program- The Commission discussed the Adult Softball Program and the purpose of the program being to have fun. The Commission noted the serious course the program was taking and discussed ways to bring back the fun of the game. For 2009 the Commission discussed holding two meetings with the Adult Softball Coaches: one meeting in April to review the coaches responsibilities and all teams will need to send a representative; the second meeting will be the first week of June where all forms/fees need to be submitted. The meetings will include setting up a Coaches Contract that will be reviewed with each team to include: a Player's Code of Ethics; verification from the coaches that all players are at least 18 years old- player's will show the coach id if necessary; to accept only checks as payment from the coach of each team; to have the coaches pay for the team at the second meeting with the signed rosters; to prohibit offensive t-shirts; and to have the coaches sign a coaches agreement. The Commission also discussed inviting high school students to be paid umpires in the hope of establishing an umpire base to draw from. The Commission discussed the two teams that were not able to complete the season in the league and agreed that the two teams should not be able to participate in 2009 due to their lack of interest/commitment to complete their games as scheduled and the negative impact that had on the remaining teams.

New Business

2009 Budget/CIP- The Director noted that the Selectmen have asked the departments to submit the 2009 budget as level funded with the only increase for salaries. C. Johnson recommended that the Town consider setting aside 2% of the total approved budget for catastrophic emergencies, similar to what PMHS did; it has helped the school budget with the unforeseen fuel prices. Parks and

Recreation was going to recommend a warrant for the CIP for a future sidewalk/turf maintenance machine.

5K Race- The Director reported that the race was very successful with a record attendance of 253 finishers. The timing company recommended increasing the registration fee to help cover the race expenses. It was suggested to charge \$15 for pre-registered runners and \$20 for race day registration. Traffic control went well and W. Lionetta will ask Keith Jordan about water for the race in 2009 to see if it can be donated or purchased at a reduced cost.

Inclement Weather Policy- The Commission discussed adopting a policy to cover outdoor events in the case of inclement weather. C. Johnson recommended using the policy the Alton Youth League uses taken from Cal Ripken Rules. G. Theodora made a motion that Parks and Recreation sponsored events/outdoor activities will need to wait thirty minutes after the last lightening strike before participants can re-enter the field; motion was seconded by C. Johnson and passed.

Tennis Lessons- The Director reported that the Tennis Lessons were going well with full classes. The Department is planning to sponsor a Labor Day Tennis Tournament. The Director noted the instructor receives 70% of the registration fees and the Town receives 30% for advertising and program logistics.

Recreation Soccer Program- The Director reported the Soccer Program has added a Kindergarten and a 7&8-grade team.

Open Gym- The Commission discussed the benefits of sponsoring an Open Gym program where participants could play volleyball, basketball, floor hockey, etc. The Commission noted the limited amount of gym time available at the two schools but suggested the Director ask for gym time to see if the program is a possibility.

Alton Youth League- C. Johnson stepped down as a Commission member and presented a request from the Alton Youth League to include: asking for permission to solicit donations for improvements to Jones Field. The AYBL would like to build a two-story brick building with electricity to announce games, store field maintenance equipment and sell refreshments. The AYBL would also like to make improvements to the fields so they drain better. The Commission recommended that the AYBL submit a letter to the Parks and Recreation Commission with their plan and the Commission will forward it to the Board of Selectmen with their recommendations.

Youth Basketball Program- C. Johnson suggested starting the Recreation Youth Basketball program earlier than in years past so the players can have more practices before the games begin. K. Troendle said she had spoken to Kristi Hikel, ACS Athletic Director, and the program format was going to change with the addition of school intramurals. K. Troendle said she would contact K. Hikel to find out the program specifics and will report back to the Commission. The Basketball Program started two weeks earlier last year but with the holidays some teams did not get many additional practices.

Light Up Night- The Director reported that Light Up Night is scheduled for Saturday, December 6 from 5:00pm-7:00pm.

Touch a Truck- The Director suggested sponsoring the Touch A Truck program in 2009. C. Johnson suggested including a Smoke House as well, Farmington had one at a Touch a Truck program and it was very exciting for the children.

Commission Vacancy- The Director reported that the Commission term expired for Brad Smith and a three year term is available and not filled at this time.

Other

Harvest Happenings- C. Johnson mentioned a great program for children that the Town used to sponsor called Harvest Happenings. Activities included: costume parade (Funniest, Scariest) for different age groups; orange pass; darts with balloons; push peanut with nose; donut on string; bobbing for apples. The Police Department did a K-9 demonstration and each class had a booth. The Commission discussed sponsoring a program like that again for Alton children.

Adjournment

G. Theodora made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35pm; motion was seconded by C. Johnson and passed. The next meeting will be Thursday, September 18 at 6:30pm at AVAS.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kellie Troendle, Certified Park and Recreation Professional
Parks and Recreation Director*