

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2006**

Attending: Chairman John Papa
Gary Cahill
Paul Gabor
Stanley Kudej
Harry LaBonda
Carey Moran
Robert Zuraw

Also attending: Ronald Herrick, Jr., Director
Jim Mastrony, Supervisor
Dean Cawthra, Parks Superintendent

Absent: John Browne, Jr.
Dee Carey
Joseph DeFilippo

Excused: Michelle Pagliaro-Haywood
David Zamba

PUBLIC PORTION:

Michael Kundrat, age 17, of Shelton approached the Commission members looking for ideas for an Eagle Scout Project. He is currently a Life Scout and would like to work on the Shelton Trails as part of his project. He will contact Ron Herrick later in the week to verify a project.

ACCEPTANCE OF FEBRUARY MINUTES:

*Robert Zuraw made a motion to accept the minutes from the February meeting. Carey Moran seconded the motion. All were in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The first letter from Terrence Gallagher of 43 Judson Street, Shelton was addressed to John Anglace, President of the Board of Aldermen. The letter was in reference to the proposed reduction in Open Space funding. Mr. Gallagher expressed that there are a variety of techniques to strengthen open space protection, and that working together will ensure that our town's open spaces, trails and greenways will be as good as possible.

The second correspondence was an e-mail from Kathleen Fraska to Ron Herrick regarding the replacement of a fence that surrounds the Skate Park.

There was mention of removal of a sign that is on leased State property as well. The possibility of placing a turnaround on the property was mentioned.

The third letter was from Ron Herrick to Dean Cawthra. Due to weather and financial constraints beginning on February 27, 2006, part-time employees should be limited to 24 hours per week. When the outdoor work increases in April, the Parks and Recreation Department will look to increase to a 32-hour workweek.

The fourth letter was from Ron Herrick to Joe Sewack regarding the good work that Joe Ramatowski has been doing around the Community Center.

The fifth letter was also from Ron Herrick sent to Joel Hurliman, Chief of the Shelton Police. Ron requested that the police patrols open, close and lock the gates to Riverview, East Village and South Banks Parks effective Tuesday, March 21, 2006 as per City Ordinance 138. Ron also requested that an officer on duty go by the Skate Park at closing time. He enclosed the hours of operation with the letter.

The sixth letter was from Elyse R. LaForest, Program Manager of the Federal Lands to Parks Program regarding the Stepping Stones – Hide-Out lease. A concession agreement instead of a lease needs to be made.

The seventh letter was a letter of complaint from Carol Steinberg of Woodland Park, Shelton. The main issues of complaint were the pool temperature, showers, cleanliness of the lockers, pool area roof, “dirty water” in the pool and lifeguards.

The last letter was from John J Brennan Construction Company to Dean Cawthra, Parks Superintendent. This was a quote for the Sunnyside Boat Ramp. The total cost would be \$8,500. Two other quotes will be obtained before a decision will be made.

STAFF REPORTS:

Director's Report:

The bids for the fireworks have gone out.

The high school spring sports teams will begin on Monday. Recreation leagues are finalizing their registrations and holding tryouts.

The boat stickers will be in next week.

According to the financial reports, rentals are down a bit from this time last year.

The fencing at the Skate Park was repaired. The park is scheduled to open April 17.

There are twelve spots left for April 29th trip to the “Lion King” on Broadway. A trip has been scheduled to Yankee Stadium on June 11th to see the Yankees play the Oakland A's.

Aquatic Director's Report:

Spring programming is in session for both the Little People's and the Big People's Aquatic Programs.

A Lifeguard Training course began 3/10/2006 with (10) participants. The Fundamentals of Instructor Training, Water Safety Instructor & Lifeguard Training Instructor courses are tentatively scheduled for 3/13/2006.

The Shelton Monroe Rapids Swim Team appreciated the quick decision made in reference to their request for pool time and space for a four (4) week swim clinic. This being the first time they will be running a clinic, they have decided to only make use of the Monroe pool.

Superintendent's Report:

Dean Cawthra reported that the lots and walkways will continue to be cleared as needed. Trees and brush on trails will be cut. Brush along the fence line at the Nike Site as well as brush at the boat ramp will also be cut. The Riverview playground and park will be cleaned and inspected as well.

*A motion was made by Gary Cahill to accept all Staff Reports. Robert Zuraw seconded the motion. All were in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee:

There are very few bills at this time. The bills that have come in have been paid.

Gazebo Committee:

The committee has not booked all of the bands for the Music Under the Stars concert series. All contracts will be signed and the schedule will be set by this time next month.

Field Maintenance:

Next week, the fields will begin to get use. There will be a walk about on April 1 at 8:00 A.M. to assess various fields and sites in the City of Shelton.

Open Space:

There was nothing to note for Open Space at this time.

Ad Committee:

The Ad Committee will meet at 6:30 P.M. on Thursday, April 20, 2006.

*A motion to accept all Committee Reports was made by Stanley Kudej. Paul Gabor seconded the motion. All were in favor.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Quotes were received to install a shower on the pool deck to rinse off. There will be three quotes before a decision will be made.

Bids are going out to install a new roof over the pool. Repairs inside and out will be made at the same time. Discussion followed regarding informing patrons and swim teams.

The budget hearing will be Tuesday, March 21, at 7:00 P.M. at City Hall. One quote has been given for outside janitorial service. Mr. Schiappa will be contacted for a quote on cleaning the Community Center as well.

*A motion to accept the Chairman's Report was made by Gary Cahill. Robert Zuraw seconded the motion. All were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

A group of soccer advocates are meeting with United Illuminating at this time to preliminarily discuss installing security lights in the parking lot at Capewell Park. After they meet with United Illuminating, they will meet with the Parks and Recreation Commission to discuss this endeavor.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Commission members are waiting for prices to solve the erosion problems at the Sunnyside Boat Ramp. They are also waiting on prices for a floating dock.

*A motion was made by Carey Moran to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 P.M. The motion was seconded by Robert Zuraw. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra McGlone,
Secretary

These minutes were taken and submitted while Diana Barry, Clerk, was on Medical Leave. They are being reproduced to update the City website.