



TOWN OF BARNSTABLE BARNSTABLE RECREATION DIVISION

DIVISION MANAGER

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RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES 4 JANUARY 2010

Commission Members Present: Joe O'Brien – Vice Chairman, Dan Proto, Andy Gauthier, Kevin Turner, Rene King

Commission Members Absent: Clyde Takala – Chairman, Kathy Pina

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm, roll call was taken. Kevin Turner made a motion to accept the December 7th minutes, seconded by Dan Proto, the Commission voted and it was passed unanimously.

Public Comment **Bruce Murphy** from Cotuit Athletic Association was in attendance to update the Recreation Commission on the past season at Lowell Park. His comments were the following:

- There was vandalism in the fall on the buildings and field and the Sheriff's Department came to clean it up.
- The park has been very well used.
- They have a spring partnership with Sturgis Charter School.
- They have volunteers working on the field.
- There have been a lot of people who walk around the outside of the field and bring their dogs. There have been dog issues in the past. Big dogs tend to tear up the field when they run. There are no dog signs posted.
- The side gates are open and they welcome the public to come and use the field appropriately.
- The large sign of policies and procedures fell down and they need to put it back up on the fence.
- They have had clinics in the summer the last couple of years and it has been successful.
- The team roster for the Kettleers is up on the website.

He thanked the Recreation Division and Commissioners for their continued support. **Joe O'Brien** asked if it was mandated to keep all the gates unlocked. **David Curley** said that it was the Town Managers policy delegated the monitoring of Lowell Park to the Recreation Division and have been instructed to keep the gates open. If a problem arises, Recreation has the flexibility of closing various gates. **David** continued to say that Arnold Mycock who has been associated with the park for over 50 years keeps an eye on the field. There have been no issues regarding the gates being locked. **Rene King** asked Bruce if he could get the local youth involved in his scheduled clean-up dates and promote it as a community event. The youth could be involved and get the experience of giving back to the community. **Bruce** said that he would work it out and get the dates to the Recreation Division; he went on to say that he currently works with the Sturgis Charter School children and they help out with the maintenance of the field and the kids appreciate

the condition of the field. **David** said that they were going to re-attach the policies and procedures sign and make it more secure so it does not fall down again. **Andy** asked if cars were ruining the bricks. **Bruce** said they were worried about the bricks because cars pull up over the bricks to get to the gates to let their dogs onto the field. He also said that they were looking into keeping the parks esthetics uniform and working out the details to block off the bricks. **Kevin** asked if Mr. Buckley's issues have been addressed about the gates. **David** said yes, the gates are open and there are no problems. When there are problems with McBarron field they lock the gate for a day or two and then re-open it. It is the same policy with Lowell Park. **Dan** asked if a webcam would be useful at Lowell Park. **Bruce** said that was an option they were looking into. The Commission thanked Bruce for coming to the meeting.

New Business **Melanie Van Kleeck**, Program Coordinator gave a brief description of her job and duties with the Recreation Division. She said that she works in the Youth Center and the gym. She currently runs some of the basketball programs and after school programs. She runs a volleyball league for adults on Wednesday nights. She works with Mark Boardley, Teen Center Manager, and they are focusing on the Youth to make the Teen Center a home for them. She is involved with the suspension program and so far hasn't encountered any problems. Memberships have taken off and they have sold much more than anticipated. Currently she and Mark have started programs for tots starting at 18 months. **Rene** asked Melanie if she was planning on running any leadership skills programs for the youth. **Melanie** said that she was thinking about offering community service programs and have the kids come up with a project or organize one for them. She said that the high school kids have been outreaching to the younger kids already helping them with homework and mentoring to them. **Dan** asked if there were any problems with smoking at the new building. **Melanie** said no. She went on to say that she is trying to teach the children to be respectful to the staff, themselves, and to each other and if not there are consequences. **Joe** said that his daughter helps to coach basketball for the Recreation Division on Saturdays and she said that it is more than just learning basketball it is about teaching the kids to be respectful and learning good life skills.

Old Business **Joe** asked that the issue of the wishing well be discussed. **David** said that he talked to Kathy Pina and that she believes the wishing well be placed on the curved TD Bank wall. **Dan** thought that was a good idea because then it wouldn't be taking money away from Ardeo's. He also asked if the wishing well was going to be added to the naming opportunity of the HYCC list. **David** said it was and that the money raised from the well would help the less fortunate in our scholarships program. He also said that at next months meeting will be the final decision on the well and the Commission will vote then. **Joe** read into the minutes the letter that was drafted by Kevin Turner, asking for a scholarship from Best Buddies. **Joe** signed the letter and it will be mailed to Bill Sykes and Best Buddies. **Kevin** said that the money, \$300, would allow one child to go to Nationals and he felt that Barnstable High School should decide how it would be awarded. **Joe** asked about Brian Morrison. **David** said that he is fundraising and still interested in replacing the old equipment with modern, safe equipment at Ridgewood Park.

Public Comment None

Director's Report See attached. **Rene** asked David if the Town was doing anything to help people stop smoking considering we have so many bans and no smoking areas around Town. **David** said that there is a program and they meet in the Shepley Community Room at HYCC and it is a strict program for the participants. **Kevin** asked if the Hyannis Mets could be invited to the March meeting, Patti Machado invited to the April meeting to discuss the lifeguards and beach programs, and Mark Boardley to the meeting in May to discuss the gym and teen center. **Rene** asked about the beach survey if it was ready

to go out in the Mail-In Parking Permit Program. **David** said that he will send the information to the Commission and they will get it ready to be sent out. **Joe** asked that any information the Little League is going to bring to the next meeting if it could be sent before hand for review by the Commission members.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 1st, 2010 at 5:30 at Town Hall. Kevin made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rene, the Commission voted and it was passed unanimously at 6:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Samantha Garfield, Principal Division Assistant, Recreation Division.