

**Town of Wilmington
Recreation Commission
Minutes of September 1, 2016 Meeting**

Members Present: Charlie Biondo, Mike Burns, Jennifer Crane, Laurie Robarge and Deborah Cipriani, Director

Member Absent: Sheila Burke

Guests: Kendra Amaral, Valerie Gingrich, Karen Campbell and Linda Kanter

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m.

The June 2, 2016 meeting minutes were read and unanimously accepted on a motion by Charlie Biondo and seconded by Mike Burns.

Jennifer Crane was welcomed as a new member on the Recreation Commission.

Kendra Amaral and Valerie Gingrich gave a presentation on suggested options as outlined in the Facilities Master Plan regarding the Recreation Department. The Facilities Master Plan is a long range 20 year plan. This plan will be used to prioritize projects that need to be done in town and help implement a five year Capital Improvement Plan. Kendra and Valerie were looking for input to determine if the right options are being researched regarding new buildings, moving buildings, rehabbing buildings etc. Many questions were asked regarding other facilities such as the Town Hall, Senior Center, Library and Roman House. Each option on the study, regarding the Recreation Department, was discussed in length. The overall opinion of those present at the meeting disagreed with having the Recreation Department and Senior Center combined. Size and set up of facility, limitation of available rooms, safety with arrivals and departures and the large number of people needing to be facilitated were leading concerns. It is felt that a new stand-alone Senior Center is a better solution. The Recreation Office benefits being in Town Hall with all of the foot traffic and proximity to other departments they continually work with. Next Master Plan Committee meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2016.

Director Cipriani's Report:

The monthly reports for June, July and August were distributed.

Yentile Farm is progressing on schedule and on budget. The grand opening of the facility will be in late April or early May. The Rotary Club will be hosting many of the festivities on opening day.

Complaints are still being received regarding people not removing dog waste at the Dog Park. Some patrons are picking up the waste but then leaving the bags at the site. Chris Sullivan, the Animal Control Officer, says the number of left bags has been steadily declining.

Commission elections were voted on and unanimously approved as follows: Mike Burns, Chairman; Charlie Biondo, Vice Chairman and Laurie Robarge, Secretary.

New Business:

The fall edition of Recreation Matters was released on Wednesday, August 31st. AMC tickets will once again be offered. AMC has removed restrictions on these new Black Tickets. Details for the new trip offering to the Colorado Rockies is being finalized. Registration will begin on November 15.

The Tiny Tots program enjoyed another successful summer. There were only a total of four openings in the two sessions combined. The seasoned staff runs a high quality program which resulted in many students opting to register for both sessions.

Bernie McNally was not able to fulfill his role as Director at the Playground Program this summer as planned. Kelly Torpey and Brittany Irwin were hired as new Assistant Directors. The staff was met with many new issues/concerns that had to be addressed. The staff all pulled together and supported Kelly & Brittany throughout the summer. Next year, a Behavior Policy will be included on the registration form.

Feedback from Andrea Gillis, the Beach Supervisor, regarding her staff was very positive. DPW workers praised the condition the bath house and beach were left in by the lifeguarding staff as well.

The Annual Fishing Derby (June 4) and Police Beach Day (August 4) were both held at Silver Lake and fortunately both programs enjoyed absolutely beautiful weather.

Karen Campbell will become the Recreation Director on September 29th. As Karen and Linda Kanter have both worked in the Recreation Office for over 13 years a very smooth transition is expected.

Discussions:

“Saturday Night Lights” Flag Football registration is going great. In 2015, we had a total of 186 students participate. As of today, we already have 224 enrolled for the 2016 season.

The new website format is up and running. The on-line registration is working well. There are currently 2,258 families using the system.

Debbie Cipriani extended her gratitude to the Recreation Commission members for all their dedication and support throughout the years.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Laurie Robarge at 6:30 p.m. and was seconded by Jennifer Crane.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 6, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Laurie Robarge
Commissioner