

**Town of Portland
Parks & Recreation Commission
May 11, 2009 Minutes**

Members Present: Chairman Ralph Zampano, Rob Edwards, Steve Steinkamp, Hilary Phelps

Also present: Members of the Brownstone Quorum; Jim Tripp, Eunice Wiseman, Frank Winiski, Cari Klick, and Steve Klick.

Absent: Peter Zaborowski, Jean Zaborowski, Ellen Kelley

Town Administration; Sean Dwyer, Parks and Recreation Director

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Zampano called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

2. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

Alternate Hilary Phelps was appointed to fill in for Peter Zaborowski.

3. ACCEPT AGENDA

Ralph Zampano requested the agenda be amended to move "Riverfront Park" up on the agenda to accommodate Brownstone Quorum/Riverfront Park members present at tonight's meeting. A motion was made by Tom Ladny to accept the agenda as amended. Hilary Phelps seconded. All ayes. Motion passed.

4. APPROVE MINUTES OF APRIL 20, 2009 MEETING

Ralph Zampano requested page 2 of the minutes under "Skateboard Park" be corrected to 35 hours per week for fall. Steve Steinkamp made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Rob Edwards seconded. All ayes. Motion passed.

5. RIVERFRONT PARK

Brownstone Quorum/Riverfront Park members introduced themselves and a discussion was held on the many benefits the Picnic Pavilion will bring to the Riverfront. Jim Tripp explained that this project will move quickly. Members shared several maps with the Commission and explained the layout of the current plan; the north end or "chip" trail will house the pavilion. The area across from the pavilion (adjacent to the river) has been cleared and the labyrinth (an intricate circle of paths/passages) originally scheduled for the pavilion area will be moved to a more passive area of the park. The amphitheatre area will be gravel and a small storage area will be put in next

to the stage. Ralph Zampano has concerns about the southern end of the field (boat launch area) and its' proximity to the amphitheatre. Jim Tripp assured Ralph that pavilion events would be scheduled around boat traffic and does not feel there will be a problem.

Jim also expressed the need for electrical power to the pavilion and amphitheatre and felt perhaps the Brownstone Avenue Extension project could assist with an aerial format for power to the area as that approach would be the most economical.

Several Commission members raised concerns about vandalism. Jim Tripp would like to have a fund raiser to raise money for a security camera at the location in hopes of deterring vandalism in the area and also felt that as time goes on and people become aware of the area and begin to spend more time there that the vandalism will certainly decrease over time.

Tom Ladny asked about fishing platforms and docks and Jim Tripp explained that perhaps grants could be utilized for these projects but also stated these projects are in the 5-10 year plan.

Jim also stated that eventually the Committee would like to see a Destination Tower at the northern end of the park.

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION

Communication from Eric Peterson of Little League and Chris Donahue of Youth Soccer thanking Carl Johnson and the grounds crew for preparing the fields for the spring season. Also, a thank you to Erik Peterson published in the Rivereast News Bulletin expressing his gratitude to the Parks and Recreation Department for helping Little League with a successful Opening Day.

Ralph Zampano expressed concern about the lack of meeting dates/minutes and agendas on Portland's website. Sean asked Laura to inquire with Dave Kuzminski and report back at the next meeting.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

8. OLD BUSINESS

5K Road Race – Date scheduled for Friday, August 14th @ 6:30 pm. Participants will run the same course as last year. Drawstring backpacks and raffle prizes for participants. Police Department is all set; key areas to include 17A Main Street, Church Street, Coe Avenue and Fairview Street.

Signage and TV and radio broadcasting will be in place prior to the race. Tom Ladny requested each Commission member provide a minimum of three raffle prizes from various businesses in Town to donate to the Road Race. Cash donations are welcome as well.

Gildersleeve School Property – No anticipated activity in 2009.

Status: *No change*

Riverfront Park

Goal: To work with Brownstone Quorum on picnic pavilion and staging area for concerts in coordination with the State boat launch effort.

Status: *Status of this project included in this month's minutes.*

Rails to Trails

Goal: No specific activity is planned until legal aspects of property owners have been resolved.

Status: *No change*

Goodrich Property

Goal: Identify the steps for development of a soil management plan.

Status: *Subcommittee formed: Ralph Zampano, Tom Ladny, Hilary Phelps and Sean Dwyer.*

School Properties - Middlesex Fields are now under the control of Parks and Recreation.

Status: *No change*

Youth Basketball – Develop a long term plan for building a solid K-8 basketball program.

Status: *Tentative scheduling proposal due by next meeting.*

Swimming Lessons

Goal: To partner with a local organization to provide the youth of Portland an inexpensive Learn to Swim program.

Status: *No change*

Rehab Existing Fields – To rehab the Middlesex Avenue field and regrade the Brownstone Park outfield.

Status: *Eagle Scout Project @ Bransfield Park – Batting Cage*

Other possible Eagle Scout Projects Press Box/Football Field at the Middlesex Ave. Complex and dug outs at Bransfield Park Regulation Ball Field?

9. NEW BUSINESS

Ralph Zampano shared his annoyance of the lack of accountability for the keys to the Middlesex Avenue. After discussion it was decided to provide a sign out sheet for the keys.

Sean spoke about signage at each of the fields/parks in Town and suggested a sign be posted at the Veterans Memorial Park (behind Town Hall)

10. ADJOURNMENT

Hilary Phelps made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rob Edwards seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

NEXT MEETING – Monday, June 8th @ 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Laura S. Manager
Recording Secretary