

Portland Parks and Recreation Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 11, 2024

Buck-Foreman Community Center

Parks & Recreation Office

265 Main Street

Present: Commission Members: Karen Agogliati, Chair, Chris Donahue, Deb Rooth, Amie Leary, Regan Fitzgibbons, Jillian Crawford - Alternate

Also: Andy Dionne, Parks and Recreation Director, Jim Tripp, Board of Selectmen Liaison (arrived at 6:25 pm)

1. Call to order

Karen Agogliati called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call/Appointment of Alternates

No action.

3. Approval of Agenda

Chris Donahue made a motion to approve the Agenda for March 11, 2024 as presented and seconded by Regan Fitzgibbons. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes – Regular Mtg. February 12, 2024

Chris Donahue made a motion to approve minutes for Regular Meeting on February 12, 2024 as presented and seconded by Amie Leary. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Brownstone Quorum Update

Tom Bransfield gave an update on Brownstone Quorum activities which included:

New signs for park:

Three interpretive signs funded by CT Humanities, and two labyrinth signs funded by Brownstone Quorum. Examples of signs were presented. Park rules sign(s) were mentioned and will be taken into consideration.

Concerts:

Dates are July 16, 23, 30, August 6, and 13.

Other:

Possible movie night with Portland Library

Possible nature talk at Pavilion – (bird rehabilitation)

Clearing invasives behind Picnic Pavilion:

Replanting on banks of lower southwest section if funds allow, Grant Application to Community Fund of Middlesex County, two Rockfall Foundation Grants were received in 2023, 2024.

Quarry celebration and Craft Fair June 8:

Over 40 crafters, food, bounce houses, music

Fall Fair, in conjunction with 5K race, was mentioned

New entrance and sign like Recreational Complex:

Working with Public Works; old sign disappeared

Picnic Tables:

To be located at quarry view sites and construction using brownstone slabs

Riverwalk trail

Fishing access, seating, trail surface, handicap accessibility, inclusion of riverside of browns field property

Tom Bransfield will report back periodically.

6. Seasonal Events

Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled on March 23, 2024 at 11:00am with March 24, 2024 as the raindate beginning at 1:00p.m. Andy Dionne showed completed signs: “Start” and “Finish”, and for each age group. Lanes will be set up east/west from the storage building and will be marked with rope and stakes. Commission members brought candy. Volunteers to fill eggs will take place in the Parks and Rec Department on Friday, March 14th at 10:00am. PRC members will meet at 9:00a.m. day of the event to set up.

Angela Aresco will be helping. Marketing tri-fold was suggested to be ready and printed so that it can be distributed at the Easter Egg Hunt. Parks and Rec will have an information table set up. Carl Guild will provide prizes for golden eggs.

6. Park and Field Updates

Andy Dionne said that the fence at the Rec Complex is completed and is happy with how it turned out. He will follow up with the vendor to confirm that all is finalized. Andy is waiting for a cost estimate for lighting at Middlesex Avenue. Paving work will be contracted out. EZIQC will be a resource for funding for the parking lot and may be able to piggyback with Riverfront Park for paving.

7. Parks and Recreation Programs

Andy Dionne said that the Basketball Program is finished. There were 265 participants this year. Andy attended a meeting where the discussion included the possibility of schools closing permanently and how recreation programs will be affected. Discussion is ongoing. The Camp Counselor job is posted. Programs will be scheduled during April break. Andy thanked those who were responsible for the successful cheerleading program.

8. Budget and Capital Needs

Budget Meeting Workshop and deliberations are scheduled on March 13 and 19. Public hearings for budget will take place in mid-March. Andy organized early bird pricing for Summer Quest Programs. Kids Blast is increased by \$2.00/day.

9. BOS Liaison Discussion

BOS is gearing up for the budget.

10. Public Comment

Jim Tripp said that the Lions Club Recycling Program is being spearheaded by District Governor, Terri Schlosser. A bench to honor will be purchased.

11. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Chris Donahue and seconded by Deb Rooth. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Guite

Recording Secretary