

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 28, 2009
SENIOR CENTER

RECEIVED
2009 MAY -5 P 2:18
Hebron Town Clerk

PARKS & RECREATION MEMBERS PRESENT: R. Poudrier, A. Fitzpatrick, P. Hartan (8:45), A. Smith, E. Ott, C. Natorski

MEMBERS ABSENT: A. Heneghan

STAFF PRESENT: R. Calarco, Parks & Recreation Director

GUESTS: Sue Thompson, Citizen; Gayle Mulligan, Hebron BOS; Mike Ennis, Friends of Hebron Parks; ; R. Warner, Conservation Commission; Lew Hinman, Planning & Zoning; Chris DiPasquale, CEC Youth Lacrosse Athletic Organization

R. Poudrier called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Regular Meeting- March 24, 2009: C. Natorski made a motion to table the approval of these minutes until the next meeting due to errors in context and accuracies. E. Ott seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission asked that the Board Clerk consult with the Town Clerk about correcting these minutes. They also asked that they be pulled from the town website until they are fixed.

(Post Meeting Note: The Board Clerk was instructed by the Town Clerk to draft a "Memorandum of Understanding" for approval at the next Commission meeting. This document reflects what occurred at the March 24, 2009 meeting and is attached to these minutes and the original March 24, 2009 minutes.)

Citizen Comments:

Sue Thompson introduced herself. She explained that she is here tonight to ask the Commission to consider her informal proposal.

Her best friend and running partner, Dana Todd, was in a car accident on February 28, 2009. This accident left her with severe injuries. She would like to have the Commission hold a run in her name to raise awareness of Ms. Todd's situation.

S. Thompson proposed that it be a 5 mile run. She would like it to be a low cost fun run with no official times or medals.

The Commission asked if she had a particular timeframe in mind? S. Thompson was thinking this spring or this fall. R. Calarco then asked if she proposed doing this as a road race or a cross country event? S. Thompson did not have a preference. R. Calarco noted that if it was a cross country event, it could be done at the new park and it would be safer and less expensive because it would not require the hiring of police to block the roads and direct traffic.

The Commission then asked if S. Thompson was planning on making this a fundraising event for D. Todd? S. Thompson responded that D. Todd does currently have a lot of medical expenses because she did not have insurance. She has already done some fundraising for her by selling T-shirts. She would like to have this event raise some funds (how this would be handled is still to be determined) and to raise awareness of her situation.

The Commission explained that they will take this proposal up later in this meeting and thanked S. Thompson for coming before them this evening.

Chris DiPasquale, CEC Youth Lacrosse Athletic Organization, explained that he was here tonight because Lacrosse is having trouble getting field space this season. The RHAM fields have not been readily available forcing them to cancel or move games.

C. DiPasquale then asked whether the Commission had any plans in the near future to develop additional fields at the new East Street park? The Commission explained that this is part of the second phase of this project.

C. DiPasquale explained that ideally they should start playing lacrosse in March. They considered developing a field at the Lions Fair Grounds but the ground is too wet. They would love to build a synthetic field somewhere in town. Perhaps they could do this with the help of another athletic organization.

C. Natorski noted that she has been in contact with the RHAM BOE Chair and Dr. R. Siminski, RHAM School Superintendent, trying to get access to the RHAM competition fields for lacrosse, soccer and even their own RHAM teams. She is still working on resolving this issue.

G. Mulligan commented that even with the new playing fields at East Street, the town is still cramped. Unfortunately the town cannot afford more field space for now. She has personally been advocating for a turf field. She would like to see the field at HVMP redone as turf. This would enable both lacrosse and soccer to start playing earlier in their season. It would also assist baseball and football. She thought that perhaps the youth groups could get together and with combined funds and grants pay for a turf field.

The Commission agreed that they should look into getting a turf field for the town.

E. Ott asked if they would be able to get onto the East Street fields sooner than those at HVMP? R. Calarco responded "yes" explaining that there are some big drainage issues with the fields at HVMP preventing them from drying out early in the season.

Park Naming:

The discussion turned to naming the East Street Park. Mike Ennis, Friends of Hebron Parks, was present. He provided the Commission with a handout that listed all of the proposed names divided into categories with the votes tallied. The name with the most votes was *Freedom Park* (10 votes).

M. Ennis reported that they received approximately 50 votes. He then reported that they are in the process of seeing if anyone would be able to make a donation for the East Street park. They are still seeing if it would be possible to make a donation and get naming rights for the park in return.

It was then noted that the following other representatives were present for this discussion: G. Mulligan, HBOS; Robert Warner, Conservation Commission; Alexandra Smith, Open Space Land Acquisition; and Lew Hinman, Planning & Zoning Commission.

The Commission stated that they were not in favor of naming the park with a name that would tie it to the Peters House because it is still unclear what the future status of the Peters House will be. The Commission also took the name *Freedom Park* as having a connotation related to what historically happened on the Peters property.

L. Hinman commented that he too is uncomfortable with the name *Freedom Park*. He would prefer a name with a more historic significance and a linkage to the town.

The Commission then debated each naming category. They decided not to consider names from the following categories: Peters History, Hebron Name, and Maple Trees (because they would like to potentially use one of these names for the Church Street park).

The Commission was against using any people/family names that were not directly tied to the property. They then stated that they were specifically against *Rock Park* or *Rockin' Park*, *Tricentennial Park*, *Upper East Side*, *Water Pump Park*, *Pump Town Park* and *Chicken Little Park*.

The Commission then considered the following names that took parts from the proposed names or had something to do with that part of town or the property itself: *Skinner Trail Park*, *Skinner Park*, or *Old Skinner Park* (because Old Skinner Lane crosses the park and is now a trail within the park); *Burnt Hill Park*, *Freedom Hill Park*, *Gilead Park*, and *Hebron Hill Park*.

A. Fitzpatrick made the following motion:

- The Park & Recreation Commission recommend to the Board of Selectmen the following name for the new East Street park: *Burnt Hill Park*.

C. Natorski seconded the motion.

Some on the Commission thought that this name could be confusing because there is already a street in town named Burnt Hill Road that is near this park and the park is not located on Burnt Hill Road.

The others responded that over time they did not think this would be an issue because people would get used to the name and become more familiar with the area. They also liked the name because of its historic significance to the area. The Indians used to burn the corn husks at the end of the harvest on this hill to return the nutrients back to the soil.

The motion passed unanimously.

R. Warner, and M. Ennis then left the meeting.

Park Project Update:

R. Calarco reported that some Cub Scouts (Den 12) did some plantings at the East Street park entrance over April vacation. He then reported that Planning and Zoning had requested that two walkways be installed that connected the parking lots to the upper two fields. The Pack 28 Boy Scout Explorer group build these bridges/walkways.

R. Calarco then reported that he has been working with Simscroft and the landscaper to get all the fields reseeded and the washed out areas fixed. They have also had to replace some trees. They have started on the stone wall at the park entrance.

P. Hartan joined the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

R. Calarco then reported that CL&P has come out to the site. They took out a bad transformer and will be back this Thursday to install a new one. He then reported that there were approximately 50 sprinkler heads that were defective. The company has agreed to replace them.

The pavilion has been ordered. It will measure 30' by 68'. They should be before Planning and Zoning the 2nd meeting in May for the final permit. He expects to receive the plans for the pavilion next week. Then they can go out to bid for the concrete work. R. Calarco then reported that he has been before the BOS with pictures of the pavilion. He noted how it will fit nicely with the surroundings and that the BOS liked it.

L. Hinman then left the meeting.

R. Calarco then reported that the floor for the bathroom will be poured tomorrow. It will not take long to put the walls up because it is simple block construction. The big water tank for inside the building will be installed next week.

They still have to do the stamped concrete. The park building should be completed by June 1st. R. Calarco reported that the field drainage systems are working well. Public Works has to fix a pipe on East Street. R. Calarco hopes to have the CO by the end of June.

R. Calarco then proposed using the same fencing that is behind the park building for the baseball fields for consistency. The Commission agreed with this proposal.

The discussion then turned to opening day. Opening day is scheduled for August 15th. They are planning on having pony rides, a fishing derby, concerts, representation from town businesses etc.

It was noted that town businesses would not be permitted to sell anything unless they had a permit to sell food and drinks.

It was noted that the Commission had received a handout of proposed people to invite to the park opening. A. Fitzpatrick commented that she would like to add the following people to the invite list: Scott Sprague, Nancy McMillan (former Parks & Recreation Director), former Park & Recreation Commission members, Vollmer and Associates (architects), Simscroft (contractor), Ned Ellis, Robert Lee (former Hebron Town Manager) and Nathan Jacobson Associates (town engineering firm).

Miscellaneous Discussion:

The Commission then discussed field and organizational issues with both the baseball and lacrosse programs this year.

The discussion then turned to S. Thompson's proposal to have a running race to honor her friend D. Todd and potentially raise some funds. It was noted that S. Thompson wanted the town to do the registration and run the event.

The Commission did not see this event as a potential money maker because races can be very expensive to run and it would take so many people to run it. They did not think the town has the manpower for this type of event. They also did not think runners would participate if it was not timed.

The Commission was also concerned because it could set a precedent with other people wanting to hold races to help others in difficult situations. They were also concerned with having to set guidelines to determine what fundraising events they should accept or reject.

The Commission did not have any issue with S. Thompson selling T-Shirts at already scheduled running events or the new park opening to raise funds.

G. Mulligan then asked if the Commission would have an issue with a food vendor selling food and drinks at HVMP during sporting events? It was noted that right now the sports organizations are only able to sell drinks and snacks.

The Commission did not have an issue with having a food vendor provided that they had the necessary food permits, were not selling anything that would be in direct competition with the sports organizations and had received a permit from the Parks & Recreation Director.

The Commission will discuss the following at their next meeting: Hebron Days, the picnic pavilion rental fees, and what league both boys and girls basketball will play in next season.

Liaison Reports:

E. Ott then reported that there is going to be the 1st Annual KJ Life 5:5 Flag Football Tournament on June 20, 2009. He explained that this event is in the memory of Kenneth Joyce of Glastonbury who was tragically killed in a skiing accident. He asked that the Commission spread the word about this event. A copy of the flyer is attached to these minutes. E. Ott asked that it also be posted on Park & Recreation's website. The Commission agreed.

Director's Report:

It was noted that R. Calarco had provided the Commission with a written update and the current program enrollment numbers. He reported that the draft Park Policy will be before the HBOS for approval on May 7, 2009. He was asked to add a version date to each page of this document.

R. Calarco then reported that the town ordinance governing Fund 4 has been changed to better reflect how these funds are used.

Correspondence:

The following items were provided to the Commission:

- Agenda for tonight's meeting
- Minutes for the March 24, 2009 meeting for approval
- Press Release RE: upcoming and current programs (dated April 22, 2009)
- Draft copy of Parks & Recreation's proposed policy and charges for using the East Street Park Pavilion (dated April 22, 2009)
- Update on program enrollment numbers (dated April 23, 2009)
- Copy of flyer for the First Annual KJ Life 5:5 Flag Football Tournament

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 10:12 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 26, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Bulkovitch
Board Clerk