

SALEM RECREATION COMMISSION
SALEM, CONNECTICUT
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 21, 2015

Present

Pam Henry
Dave Kennedy
Sue Spang/Chairperson
Diane Weston
Crispin Fresco-Hawes
Al Giansanti
Alex Mercier/Recording Secretary

Absent

Bob Appleby
Doug Morrow
Vacancy
Guests
Arthur Bergman

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Sue Spang called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

1. MINUTES:

M/S/C (Giansanti/Fresco-Hawes) to approve the November 16, 2015 minutes as amended.

Vote: Approved unanimous.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Commission discussed portions of the report. D. Kennedy stated that baseball was going to get the funds they requested as they do every year. S. Spang stated that she bought three new maple trees from Salem Country Gardens for the Round Hill Road site

Heading date changed to 2016

M/S/C (Kennedy/Weston) to accept presented Treasurer's Report as amended. Vote: Approved unanimous.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT/GUESTS/CORRESPONDENCE:

A. Bergman stated that gym time is going well – there doesn't seem to be any issues so far. 12:30-2 softball 2-4 on Sundays. Tryouts will be later in February – he will let us know for sure when he knows the dates. Baseball will start online registration this year. They hope to open it up early this year. Registration fees will be the same as last year except tee ball is \$10 cheaper. The concession stand hasn't brought in enough money in the past so right now they have decided not to open for the 2016 season. SYBL is exploring an extreme team for the Babe Ruth league. There would be higher cost to participate because of all of the tournaments.

S. Spang asked if they also would be on the Majors team.

A. Bergman stated that they would have to play Majors to also play on the extreme team.

A. Bergman discussed the options that we have with being involved with East Lyme baseball. He expressed concerns about having enough kids just from Salem for a team. He said that we would probably need to pull from multiple towns. The Tri-County league seems like the best way to go even though there were some concerns about getting adequate Salem field use.

A. Bergman stated that he has trouble getting the Babe Ruth commissioners to get back to him.

He stated he is searching for his tax ID number certificate. They have the number just not the certificate.

He stated there is concern that the batting cage will not be fixed in time. S. Spang stated that the Commission is looking into it and they have a target date for opening day but that depends on the estimates they get to fix the batting cage.

4. ADDITIONS AND REVISIONS

M/S/C (Kennedy/Fresco-Hawes) to add a line item to discuss the tree lighting as bullet point f under New Items.

Vote: Approved unanimous.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. BOF Capital Report - None

b. Scoreboard – D. Kennedy stated that he is getting nowhere with Eversource. Three years ago they applied for power that included lighting for the soccer and the Babe Ruth Field. Eversource said 800 amps were needed to run lights on both fields. After much research it was determined lighting on both fields was too expensive. The Commission is trying to get less amps or lighting for the cost of the 800 amps that were paid for. S. Spang asked P. Henry if she knew about how much is left of the \$10,000 gift used to buy the scoreboard and if she could supply those numbers. D. Kennedy stated he is trying to contact Eversource to see what we can do. If D. Kennedy does not hear from Eversource we will ask for a meeting with our town rep from Eversource to see what can be done. Regardless we will have a scoreboard up by opening day and it will run one way or another.

c. Well at Volunteer Park

M/S/C (Weston/Ken) Motion to table discussion of Well at Volunteer Park.

Vote: Approved unanimous.

d. MyRec Presentation - A. Mercier presented the pros and cons of purchasing the MyRec registration software to replace our current town hall website. Pros included online registration, ease of use and communication with public, the plethora of reports that can be generated, free upgrades, local ad space to generate revenue, and the fact that most sites are up and running within 24 hours of purchase. The main con was the cost at about \$195 per month. P. Henry expressed concerns about credit card fees and setting up a separate account to make this happen. A. Mercier stated that he would look into that further and report back.

e. Recreation Clerk Report – A. Mercier reported that he has gotten back over 40 activity interest surveys and that the results have shown that the most people want baking/cooking classes, a dodgeball tournament, and some kind of aerobics class. A dodgeball tournament is in the works and a flyer has been made, the date just needs to be secured with the school. The proposed date is Saturday, March 12 from 10am-3pm. A few people have signed up for the theater class or AARP driving course so far.

f. Tree Lighting – S. Spang stated that she got a new star for the tree. D. Weston brought up the issue of the bad condition of the tree. S. Spang said we need to have someone look at it to see if anything can be done about it or we need to look into planting a new tree. D. Kennedy stated the attendance was not as good as previous years. One issue was that *The Day* had the wrong date. Also, the date was switched to a Saturday this year and that might have thrown people off. We will go back to Sunday next year. Another suggestion was to put up the sign on the town green informing residents of the date. D. Weston suggested potentially shifting the time to earlier if possible with the light.

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Volunteer Park - none

- b. Baseball** – S. Spang stated concern about the concession stand not being open this year. The issue with the bathrooms staying open or not was also brought up because the concession stand people cleaned them. The water has been shut off and winterized. P. Henry stated her surprise that they only had \$5000 in sponsors. D. Kennedy stated that it was \$5000 above and beyond the normal team sponsorships. S. Spang stated her concern about the lack of participation and what we will be done with the fields if the baseball league ceases to exist at some point in the future. She said that they could try to even more take advantage of renting out the fields to other organizations if SYBL continues to downsize. The tournaments provide a good opportunity to open the concession stand.
- c. Soccer - none**
- d. Basketball** – S. Spang stated that Montville reached out and she thinks basketball is going to take them up on their offer to have younger kids teams play each other in games.
- e. Tennis** – D. Weston asked if the nets had been fixed yet. S. Spang stated that she thought it was temporarily fixed so that people could continue to play on the courts until the weather eventually gets too cold.
- f. Multi-purpose Path - none**

7. OTHER BUSINESS

D. Kennedy feels that whoever put in the batting cages should fix it because it has been broken for a while. It took a major hit during a wind storm this summer. D. Kennedy stated that only 2 feet was not nearly enough to support the weight of the poles and nets and he would like to see an installation manual for the product to see what is recommended. We need new sleeves and new concrete now to fix it which is a huge hassle. S

8. FUTURE ACTION ITEMS

- a. Community Ice Skating Rink - none**
- b. Dog Ordinance on play areas - none**

9. ADJOURNMENT

**M/S/C (Giananti/Henry) to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 PM.
Vote: Approved unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted by
Alex Mercier
Recording Secretary