

Oak Bluffs Park Commissioners Minutes

May 5, 2008

Members present: Richard Combra, JR, Allan deBettencourt and Nancy Phillips

Meeting opened at 5:05 PM

Hospice Event request

Ellen Richardson of MV Hospice presented an application to use Waban Park for a flea market on Saturday, June 28, 2008 from 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM. Map included with application.

Motion: To approve the event and waive the fee. By: Commissioner Phillips. Second: Commissioner Combra. Motion passed unanimously 3-0.

Commissioner Combra suggested that the Commission should discuss setting up a policy on how they should permit events and re-do application as the events have grown significantly over the years. Town counsel was preparing a package for the Commissioners to review.

Church Service request

Apostolic House of Prayer to hold services in Waban Park and/or Ocean Park during summer months.

Commissioner Phillips advised some people had a problem with their banner. She wants to have public hearings with neighbors of each park and find out what they expect the park to be used for.

Commissioner Combra said he hasn't received any complaints about the banner and he didn't have problem with it. He advised that the deed restriction about tents is only on Sunset Park.

Applicant wanted to keep the tent in case of rain; it was 10 x 20 feet.

Motion: To permit the first two services and hold a meeting with the neighbors to see if they had any comments or concerns. By: Commissioner Combra. Second: Commissioner deBettencourt. Motion passed unanimously 3-0.

Summer Recreation

Commissioner Combra said that the money to fund lifeguards is to be voted May 28th and he felt that even if it failed they should still hire lifeguards and return at a later date for the money to pay them.

Mike Joyce said he already has ten applicants for lifeguards including juniors and seniors at MVRHS.

Commissioner Phillips was concerned about the lifeguard scheduling and advised that Oak Bluffs resident Charles Ratte (former YMCA camp director) was willing to assist with it.

Commissioner Combra wants to have a schedule to give to guards when they are hired so they know the duties to be performed. He advised that there are going to more people watching them this year due the higher pay.

Commissioners agreed to develop job descriptions, list of routines, schedules for discussion and approval at their next meeting.

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Commissioner Phillips and Mike Joyce will review lifeguard applications and make recommendations on who to hire at next meeting.

Mike Joyce advised that there should be an AED (automatic external defibrillator) at the beach. He said that the OB School or the MVRHS might have an extra one for summer use.

Commissioner Combra said that he will speak with John Rose at Ambulance Department.

Mike Joyce advised that the lifeguard stands need repairing and repainting for this summer.

Snack Shack

Commissioner Combra said that Conservation Commission might not let it be used.

Commissioner Phillips wants something in writing stating that it can or cannot be used as the back wall is not the same wall that fell. She felt an additional engineering survey should be done.

Commissioner Combra suggested that perhaps as Commissioners they could get an independent survey of the wall and find out exactly who is saying that it cannot be used. He added that if someone says that it is structural sound then they should occupy it and use it this summer.

Commissioners discussed how to fund an additional survey by structural engineer of the snack shack. They planned to meet with Michael Dutton on Wednesday to discuss. They agreed to revisit issue at next meeting.

Basketball Court

Mike Joyce said that if new courts are going to be built on the Leonardo property then he doesn't want to spend a lot of money on the existing courts.

Commissioner deBettencourt advised that the Niantic courts were built to get the kids off Circuit Avenue.

Commissioner Combra said he met briefly with Adam Wilson, Michael Dutton and Sam Berlow and the money voted at town meeting (CPA funds - \$200,000) was to build two baseball fields, create parking and clear the property.

Mike Joyce said there is a need for additional basketball court space.

Commissioner Combra said further discussion and public hearings would be needed before any additional facilities were to be built on the property.

Mike Joyce gave an overview of the basketball program.

Tennis courts

Mike Joyce felt that the tennis attendants bring in money that would cover their pay.

Commissioner Combra advised that the \$57,300 to be put back into the Park budget included tennis attendants.

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Commissioner Phillips wanted to know why the tennis courts at MVRHS could not be utilized by the public.

Mike Joyce replied that it probably a liability issue.

Festival Network – Boston Pops concert

Commissioner Combra advised that it had been approved by Park Commissioners and Board of Selectmen.

Commissioner Phillips said that Christine Todd (YMCA) wanted to meet with Commissioners to see if they could get any more funds for the Town.

Commissioner Combra said organizations are to join up with the Festival Network to sell tickets.

Commissioner deBettencourt felt that the Board of Selectmen took over when it should have been with the Park Commissioners.

Commissioners agreed to allow Commissioner Phillips to discuss subject with Ms Todd.

Public input on Town Parks

Commissioner Phillips suggested holding meetings with neighbors of Town parks; each meeting there would be a discussion of a specific park and then apply for CPA funds to try and address issues. She also felt each park should have a sign.

Basketball Courts

Mike Joyce advised that if the basketball program was going to stay at Niantic Park then some renovations need to be taken in the next couple of years but the tennis backboard needs work soon.

Commissioner Phillips expressed concern for the neighbors with the noise from night games.

Mike Joyce replied that it is quieter than it has been in the past and that program has been going on there for 40 years. He said that everything finishes by 9:30 PM.

Commissioner Combra said that it has been on the Capital Improvements list but perhaps they could look to CPA money.

Meeting dates

Commissioners agreed to meet every two weeks until June 23 and then meet every week and discuss a park.

Meeting adjourned.

Sincerely,

Nicole L Morey
Park Clerk