

ESSEX PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
June 1, 2011

(Please note these minutes have yet to be approved)

Chairman Michael Holmes called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Members Present: Michael Holmes, Anthony Mosa, Jack Lima, James Rawn, Robert Russo, Jack Spangle, Edward Burlison

Park and Recreation Director Rick Audet and Program Coordinator Mary Ellen Barnes were also present.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Bob Russo to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2011 regular meeting. Anthony Mosa seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Financial Updates

Financial Reports were reviewed.

Motion was made by Jim Rawn to accept the financial statements as presented. Jack Spangler seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Director's Report

- A. Park and Recreation Commission budget status – June 7 referendum
- B. Summer Concert Series sponsorships - \$1900 in sponsorships to date
- C. Fall 2011 brochure – The Park and Recreation Director mailed a request for advertisements in upcoming brochures to local businesses.
- D. Essex Great Outdoors Pursuit – fishing class on May 20 was a success, Cross Lots event this Sunday
- F. Comstock dugouts ribbon cutting and plaque unveiling ceremony was held.
- G. Eagle Scout Project idea – Viney Hill Brook Park horseshoe pit was presented to the eagle scout and his father, we have not heard back on it.
- H. ELL inquiry into hanging banners at Hubbard outfield. The Commission asked the Park and Recreation Director to prepare a policy and present it to the Commission at the September meeting.
- I. VHBP – rock pile next to Paw Park
- J. Facility Use Requests for JWMS & VRHS / meeting w Bruce Glowac.

Program Managers Report: Mary Ellen Barnes reviewed the schedule of the summer concert series. She also indicated that the July 4th parade is scheduled rain or shine on July 4th. The step off location this year will not be the Piano Factory as the property is being auctioned off on June 16th. The Parade Committee contacted the resident state trooper and it was decided that they will use Clark's Pond & Cheney Street area. Mike Holmes suggested the Fife & Drum Museum as a possible alternative. Mrs. Barnes also informed the commission that the park and recreation scholarship fund received a generous donation from the Essex Garden Club. Their donation will allow for approximately 27 scholarships for this year's summer camp. Mrs. Barnes is working directly with the Essex Elementary School Nurse, Mrs. Keaney to coordinate the distributions of the scholarships.

Parks Update

Viney Hill Brook Park Rick Audet updated the commission about the phragmites removal to take place at Viney Hill Brook Park in this fall, and stated he will work with Bob Russo to ensure it is performed according to best practices. We are contracting with a DEP certified provider to handle the removal of the phragmites.

Sunset Pond Essex Resident, Mr. Jim Godsman addressed the commission with his concerns about the maintenance of Sunset Pond along with a plan to improve the area. Mr. Godsman handed out a Sunset Pond Enhancement Project that listed several areas in need of improvement and also indicated several areas that could be enhanced to improve the park. Mr. Godsman informed the commission that he is working with Ann Penniman who was contracted by The Paul Foundation to develop a complete survey of the area and has requested the Wetland Commission to also assess the pond.

Basketball Center Update Mr. Rawn also reported that the grant application was re-submitted to Northeast Utilities. Presently the EBC has \$25,000.00 committed and the goal to initiate additional fund raising in June, 2011 and we hope to have the funds by September, 2011.

General Discussion Bob Russo reported that the invasive plants at Clark's Pond are choking the area and that we need to look towards funding for this capitol improvement project.

Ed Burleson stated that he would like to see more Lacrosse Programs in our area and reported that there were a group of residents that are considering starting a LAX league. Mrs. Barnes stated that she had been contacted by a parent who is interested in starting a league as well and the Park and Recreation plans to continue with the off season training which include both youth and high school participants.

Motion was made by Tony Mosa to adjourn at 8:15pm. Mike Holmes seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

MaryEllen Barnes
Program Coordinator
Essex Park and Recreation