

TOWN OF SOMERS

RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 5, 2007

Kibbe-Fuller Community Center

- I. CALL TO ORDER: At 7:08 pm by JJ Wassmuth
MEMBERS PRESENT: JJ Wassmuth; Colleen Maniscalco; Pam Coverdill;
Rick Lees; Karen Murdoch
NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Provencher; David Pinney; Bruce
Urban; Jen Charette
- II. AUDIENCE: none
- III. MINUTES AT LAST MEETING: The minutes of the 12/04/06 meeting were
unanimously approved 3-0; the minutes of the special meeting
held 1/11/07 were unanimously approved 5-0.
- IV. COORDINATOR REPORT:
 - A. Bills/Purchases: Reviewed as supplied by Rec. Coordinator; baby
changing table placed in women's bathroom. A new trash barrel
was purchased for the building.
 - B. Programs/Activities Update: Valentine children's party scheduled for
Saturday, February 10. JJ Wassmuth asked that all Rec Commission
Members attempt to support Recreation Programs by attending
activities periodically. Jen Charette was pleased to report that there
have been no cancellations for any program this winter. There have
been a few inquiries from the public regarding opening of the
skating rink now that the weather has turned cold. Mike Provencher
explained that we lost three months this season due to the warm
weather, so the \$1000 cost of putting up a skating rink for only two
months outweighed the need. The commission requested to be kept
apprised of these decisions so that we can keep the public informed.
David Pinney suggested that the decision regarding the skating rink
be posted on SomersNow web site. Tennis program flyers went out
to high school students this week. M & M has already looked at the
Somers tennis courts and will submit an RFP to USTA; decisions
regarding the renovations needed pending results of M & M survey.
 - C. Summer Camp: Jen Charette reported that the former camp director

will not be returning this summer and that she will be interviewing replacements. Jen welcomed any commission member to be present during the interview process.

- V. 2006/2007 Recreation Budget: The commission reviewed the budget and recommended that the cost savings of \$600 from the public telephone removal be added to the youth programs budget. A motion to accept the 3% budget increase was made by Karen Murdoch and seconded by Pam Coverdill. The commission unanimously recommended a 3% increase in expenses.

VI. Reports:

A. Park Projects: Mike Provencher reported that Field #1 has been completed. Fields #1 & #4 are on hold for completion of the warning track and fences due to the weather. The Commission advised the Mike to set a date for completion with the landscaper hired to do the project to avoid further delays in the spring. A proposal from Stafford Softball Association was made to rent Somers fields #1 & #3 for a June softball tournament. The USSSA would use the fields, and Stafford Softball would pay \$350 per field and allow a Somers Recreation group run the concessions for profit if desired. There was discussion regarding the prep needed for the fields, and it was recommended that in the contract we would state that the fields would be prepped only once before the tournament, that the Stafford Softball Association be responsible for their own trash removal, and that the Somers Park department reserve the right to cancel field use due to inclement weather in order to protect our fields. The group voted 5-0 to recommend rental of the field as long as the tournament did not conflict with the Bowers Tournament in June.

B. CIP: Update was given on the status of work on the Firehouse Field. Dave Pinney reported that there may be a cost overrun of \$5000 due to the need for electrical (pump) and irrigation work required. Dave stated that he would work with CIP to see if funds could be freed up to address this expense variance. The CIP meeting occurred, and Dave Pinney reported that items have not yet been ranked. Jen Charette and Chris Meunier will distribute the CIP recommendations of the Recreation Commission to the new members so that we can discuss the direction for future proposals.

- C. **STEAP Grant:** \$48,000 received for upgrade of Field Road Playground. Further work on the playground is on hold due to weather. Mike Provencher reports that further landscaping, placing of wood chips and fencing still needs to be done. Dave Pinney stated that a town cannot apply for a grant until the town budget is passed; he will keep us posted as to when applications can be submitted, but it is anticipated that June would be the earliest date.
- D. **Long Range Planning:** discussion was tabled for this meeting; we will await to receive copies of the 2001 Long Range Planning Report that was submitted in the past which will help us in our decision-making.

VII. New Business:

A. **Field Usage/Spring 2007:** Discussion occurred regarding the decision of which teams to give priority for field #6 & #7 rights. The commission unanimously decided to give lacrosse priority for the spring, whereas soccer has priority in the fall. It was recommended that soccer be approached regarding "pay for fields" model as lacrosse does for the fields on Pinney Road.

VIII. Other: none

IX. Correspondence: none

X. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 9:27 pm. Next meeting March 3 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colleen Maniscalco
Secretary
Somers Recreation Commission

