

**ONEONTA, NEW YORK – SEPTEMBER 4, 2013 - 7:00 P.M.**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION PG. 1**

**PRESENT:** Chair Tim Catella  
Commissioner Cynthia McCarthy  
Commissioner Gary Dilello  
Commissioner Stephen Pindar  
Council Member David Rissberger

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Geoff Davis

City Manager Michael Long also attended the meeting.

Chair Catella called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked the Clerk to call the roll.

**PETITIONERS**

Margery Merzig, 13 Roosevelt Avenue, described her interest in improving the gateways to Wilber Park and expressed a willingness to donate funds towards this goal. Mrs. Merzig stated that she would submit a letter to this effect shortly. Commissioners expressed their gratitude for her interest. City Manager Long volunteered to arrange a meeting with Mrs. Merzig and appropriate city staff to discuss her ideas.

Chair Catella then asked for a motion regarding the minutes.

**MOTION**, made by Commissioner Catella and seconded by Commissioner Dillello, that the Commission approve the minutes of the meeting of August 4, 2013.

**Voting Ayes:** Chair Catella  
Commissioner McCarthy  
Commissioner Dilello  
Commissioner Pindar

**Noes:** None

**Absent:** Commissioner Davis

**Voting Ayes:** Chair Catella  
Commissioner Dilello  
Commissioner Pindar

**Noes:** None

**Absent:** Commissioner Davis  
Commissioner McCarthy

**MOTION CARRIED**

**OLD BUSINESS**

Chair Catella asked Director Andrew for an update on Oktoberfest. He reported that the sponsors have scaled back the scope to Saturday, September 28 only at Damaschke Field. Police, Fire, Parks and the Outlaws have all been part of the planning process. The sponsors' goal is to sell 1000 tickets at \$10 each. City Manager Long indicated that Leilani's was interested in having the bandstand available in case of bad weather. City staff and the Outlaws are working to determine the best location for the bandstand at Damaschke Field.

The Chair asked Commissioner Pindar to report on the Outlaws Family Days event. Commissioner Pindar stated that 2 of the 3 events were very successful: the Kids Day on Saturday (over 300 children took part) and the America Concert on Sunday (approximately 2300 attended). The Casino night on Friday evening was very poorly attended. The weather was very good all three nights.

The Chair asked City Manager Long to discuss grant activities. He reported that a \$241,000 grant to restore the Wilber Park bathhouse has been awarded; preservation architect Randy Crawford (who worked on the first phase of the project) has been contacted to begin work on the next phase. It is

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hoped that contracts will be underway in the next two months. This was part of the Mohawk Valley Economic Development Council's grant process. Another \$242,000 grant was received to improve the existing Catella Park well and a \$300,000 grant is pending which would lift the pumps out of the flood plain and provide casing to protect the well itself and may allow for finishing the second well at the site.

Chair Catella asked Director Andrews for a review of the Balloon Fest. He reported that he had received no negative feedback and had heard that the music was well-received.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Chair Catella commended the Director and staff on the continued good appearance of the parks and asked the Director to present his report.

Recreation Director's Report

Mr. Andrews presented his Director's report. Youth summer programs and public swimming have concluded and the shut-down process for the pool is underway. The 56<sup>th</sup> annual Youth Fishing Derby was held August 17 and was very successful. Oneonta Youth Soccer begins its season this Saturday and the parks staff is beginning the fall work schedule. Revenues year-to-date are up overall; pavilion revenues are up, while program fees are down. Mr. Andrews has interviewed a possible Fall intern who would develop benchmarks for maintenance and also assist with the Punt, Pass & Kick competition on September 20. The Pi Delta Chi sorority group has decided to postpone its plan for a Breast Cancer Awareness garden until spring. The Recreation office has submitted support letters for the Neahwa Park/Market Street entrance project and the Oneonta Susquehanna Greenway Trail project. City Manager Long described a grant application that if successful will help cover the local share of the earlier Greenway project grants. He also discussed the status of the park entrance project.

Council Member Rissberger had questions concerning the process and timetable for selecting the beer provider for Damaschke Field. City Manager Long noted that a liquor license is required but that Council's role was to allow beer sales at Damaschke Field. The current license will be up for renewal before the next season.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There being no further business to come before the commission, Chair Catella adjourned the regular meeting at approximately 7:34 p.m.

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DOUGLAS KENDALL, City Clerk

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