

ONEONTA, NEW YORK - NOVEMBER 5, 2012 - 7:00 P.M.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION PG. 1

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

ABSENT: None

Chair Catella called the regular meeting to order and asked the Clerk to call the roll.

Chair Catella welcomed Kayleigh Shrewsbury to the meeting. She stated she was attending the meeting as part of her Participation in Government class from Cooperstown. Commission members welcomed her to the meeting.

PETITIONERS

Chair Catella recognized City Manager Michael Long. He stated that he and the City Manager had met with the Mayor and the Recreation Director about parks priorities. Mr. Long provided commission members his thoughts on park priorities. He stated that he felt that development of a new parks master plan should be first priority under which most of the more specific components of parks development that have been discussed could occur, such as improvements to the Market Street entryway to Neahwa Park, the splash park and the dog park, as well as improvements to Muller Plaza.

Commissioner Davis expressed some concern over the development of the dog park and the efforts expended by the committee to develop a plan. He felt the subcommittee and the development of the dog park may lose some momentum if the plan was not acted upon. Mr. Long stated that the parks master plan would examine all the smaller projects such as the dog park, and to develop cost estimates and a possible timetable for implementing the smaller components. He stated at the current time, no funds were available to build the dog park. By doing the master plan, it would allow the city to identify the issues better and possibly begin to solicit funds for its construction.

Commissioner Davis questioned Mr. Long about a possible time frame for developing the dog park. Mr. Long stated that 2014 would be a feasible expectation.

Recreation Director Andrews introduced Recreation Intern Ms. Christina Crowell. He stated that Ms. Crowell was doing GIS mapping of trees in the parks related to the Living Memorial program. He recognized Ms. Crowell's efforts and presented her with a certificate of appreciation.

Recreation Director Andrews then introduced Mr. Jonathan Gell, a local boy scout, who built an information kiosk for Wilber Park. He designed and built it and will be placed by the tennis courts in the spring. Everyone thanked Mr. Gell for his efforts and were very appreciative of the kiosk. Mr. Andrews stated it would be used a lot for announcements and other important information about the parks and recreation programs.

Recreation Director Andrews recognized Mr. David Cox, of Cornell Cooperative Extension. Mr. Cox stated that he would be hosting a one-hour invasive species awareness training at the David W. Brenner Recreation Building on Saturday, November 10th. Immediately following the training would be a two-hour walk in the parks and walking paths to identify potentially affected areas. Mr. Cox stated that the walk would be guided by city staff, NYSDEC staff and Cornell Cooperative Extension resource educators.

Chair Catella thanked Mr. Cox for attending the meeting and stated the seminar and walk should prove to be very informative. He encouraged commission members and others to attend. Mr. Cox stated if anyone had any questions to feel free to contact him.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION, made by Commissioner Catella and seconded by Commissioner Davis, that the commission approves the minutes of the regular meeting held on October 1, 2012.

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Update on Meeting Regarding Program Fees for Non-Residents

Chair Catella wanted to update the commission on his discussions with the Mayor, City Manager, the Recreation Director and Council Member Holmes regarding park program fees for non-residents. Chair Catella stated the meeting was called at the request of Council Member Holmes. He stated that Council Member Holmes wished to discuss offering free programming in the summer for city residents while developing fees for non-residents. Chair Catella stated that Recreation Director Andrews and City Manager Long are reviewing data and would develop some recommendations. All agreed that this seemed to be a good, logical approach to program fees.

Recreation Director's Report

Recreation Director Andrews presented the following report and spoke briefly on the highlights.

Program and parks update

- *Fall programs and soccer have concluded and park facilities, amenities and equipment are being prepared for winter. All parks bathrooms are closed and Wilber park gates will be closed early next week.*
- *Punt, Pass, and Kick sectional was held Sunday, October 28 at Damaschke. 17 winners of local contests hosted in Painted Post, Corning, Chenango Forks, and Oneonta qualified for the Damaschke Field sectional. The nine winners of the Oneonta sectional have qualified for a team championship which will be held on December 2 at Ralph Wilson Stadium prior to a Bills game against the Jacksonville Jaguars.*
- *Final report is being prepared and will be ready sometime in early January.*
- *Wilber Park playground slide recall update- The Parkitects contractor was on site October 11 and the new slide is installed and inspected.*
- *Greg Mattice reports that the Oneonta Job Corps has begun repairs to the skatepark in Neahwa Park and the work is ongoing.*
- *Update on Wilber pool bathhouse grant and pool tour on October 23 with Jeff, Mike, Dick, and historical architect Randy Crawford.*

Volunteering/internships

I would like to recognize the efforts of our parks student interns and volunteers who have helped in various capacities this summer and continue to work this fall.

This fall we have two interns from SUNY Oneonta; Christina Crowell from the Geography Department and Jonathan Dwyer from the Business/Economics Department. Christina will be

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updating our living memorials program and creating GIS maps for the parks, while John assisted with the Punt, Pass, and Kick, and is researching municipal parks marketing strategies. Thanks to both of them for all their efforts.

Johnathan Gell has constructed a small kiosk for his Eagle Scout Service project. This will be placed by the Wilber tennis courts in the spring.

Respectfully Submitted”

Chair Catella asked if there was any other new business commissioners wanted to discuss. Commissioner Davis was concerned about the Pit Run use of Field 5, and the closure of the road through the park. He stated he received complaints from members of the soccer club and wondered if the Pit Run could possibly relocate to field 1 & 2. Chair Catella stated he was on the Pit Run Committee and there was a meeting planned in the near future. He said he would bring this issue up but stated that logistically having the Pit Run events on Field 1 & 2 could be problematic. He stated that any changes to the route would necessitate a recertification. He would keep the commission apprised of the pending discussions.

There being no further business to come before the commission, Chair Catella adjourned the regular meeting at approximately 7:45 p.m.

JAMES R. KOURY, City Clerk

JRK/pab