

Parks Committee Meeting August 16, 2010

James Rossol called the regular monthly Parks Committee meeting to order at 6:10PM in the meeting room at the Town Hall. Present were James Rossol, Sean Moroney, Michael Meulemans, Douglas Smith and 1 visitor. Michael LeClair and Patrick Keehan were absent.

Clerk verified posting. Motion made/second Mike M./Jim to accept the agenda. Carried.

Accept minutes – Clerk had a correction on the motion to accept the Treasurer’s report. Instead of “Mike” it should be “Mike M.” Motion made/second Mike M./Jim to accept the minutes with the correction. Carried.

Accept Treasurer’s Report – Jim questioned if there was a document stating how budgets were changed by the Town Board after the Parks Committee budget meetings last year. For example, the improvement account has \$12,000 in it, which is more than what the Parks Committee requested. He stated that the way last year started was much nicer because there was a document at the beginning of the budget year that had exactly what was budgeted and for what. This next year, we’ll get a hard document back that tells us exactly what the budget is. Basically a master budget that keeps track of everything so they know each month where each account is at. The Anclam Park account on the current report, for example, is rather confusing. Jim doesn’t like the format of the report at all. He would also like to invite the Treasurer to a future meeting. Mike asked about the Going Garbage bill since Veolia is there. Veolia is just recycling. Motion made/second Mike M./Sean to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Carried. Jim will email the Treasurer.

Citizen input – None.

Set date for joint meeting with Town Board – Monday, August 30th at 7:00PM.

Discussion on completion of previously budgeted items for all Town parks – One thing that isn’t ordered yet are the playground mats for underneath the merry-go-round at Kendall Park. We’re doing some research into using cow mats instead, as it’s basically the similar material and much less expensive. As for Rec. Park, they’re starting to work on the shed. We’re not sure if the rekeying of the all the doors have been done yet, since Pat & Mike aren’t in attendance. Trophy case lights weren’t budgeted for, but we should still be under budget. Kendall Park playground equipment will be installed shortly. The fence by the Yum-Yum Tree water view is not done. New Water View sign is in. The owner is okay with putting a new cedar fence there, but the reason he has the strange fence there is because it’s the only way he can get into his yard, so he’d like some type of removable apparatus on the new fence. There was some landscaping done at the upper portion of Anclam Park, so the \$200 for flowers was taken out. New lighting was installed on the building as well as by the stairs. Mike LeClair donated the lights. Nothing was budgeted for the water view by Sandpiper. The two water views don’t have a specific budget that the Committee has to worry about, as items there come out of either

roads or just general maintenance. We will revisit this topic after we get a more workable budget form to look at.

Discussion/possible recommendation to Town Board on hours of public access for all Town parks – Typically dawn to dusk works except if there's a night game at Rec. Park. This item came up because of the Bues Point Boat Launch gate. It opens at 5AM and closes at 11PM, when our ordinance reads 6AM to 10PM. The parks don't all have to be the same. Mike mentioned that you have the internet people at Kendall Park hooking up their computers to Town power. Currently the bathrooms stay open all night at both Anclam and Rec. Park. Sean feels Anclam should be open a little later. Jim expressed concerns about people partying and we have to think about what anyone would do, since there are visitors from all over the place coming in. Jean Ehmke brought up the fact that boat trailers are parked at the Rec. Park for long term parking. There could be technicalities in the ordinance stating that the park is closed from X to X except for boat trailers or events being held with a permit from the Town. Sean doesn't like the fact that they put a gate up on a taxpayer's park. He could see a sign going up with the hours, but just not a fence. As for boaters, Jim suggested having permitted parking and explaining park hours to people at the time of issuance of the permit. Jim doesn't like the idea of a gated park either. None of the large parks in Chicago have gates, but they do have hours. Hours and fines are needed so if someone does call the authorities, there's something that can be done.

At Rec. Park, the opening could be dawn. The closing could be dusk, unless you have a permit or it's a night game. If it's until dark and it's a few minutes after dark, it's not like the person will be fined. Parks Committee is recommending Rec. Park be open dawn until dusk, unless with permit or scheduled event.

Anclam Park could probably be open a little later. However, the jetty could pose a liability if people are out there in pitch black. Sean brought up that tourists seem to not go out until 8 or 9PM. Mike could see 11PM or midnight being the latest. Jim feels midnight is way too late. Jean mentioned that the people that live in that area aren't afraid to call authorities if there is noise. Mike suggested having limited access on the jetty after dark. Jim suggested the jetty could close at dark and the rest of the park at 11PM. Jim feels the bathrooms should be closed, though. So far it hasn't been an issue. If things happen, the maintenance staff can keep track of it and if it becomes an issue, we can look at locking them at night. Recommendation from the Committee for Anclam Park is to be open from dawn until 11PM, with the jetty closing at dusk.

Committee recommends School Park and both Water Views all be open dawn until dusk.

Kendall Park is an issue because of the Wi-Fi usage. Jim suggested installing a timer on the power for the pavilion. He also suggested having the library internet router on a timer as well. Mike mentioned the light poles have power outlets as well. We could get a locked plate over the top of them. Just eliminating the power should help the problem. Jim feels if the library's closed, the router should be turned off and time the power to be shut off at 9PM. Sean suggested completely shutting the outlets off unless there's an

event or the maintenance staff need them. Clerk stated the library might have a problem with turning the internet off. Clerk will contact them. The power being off alone should help the situation, plus signage stating people will be fined if they are there after the park is closed. Since the park is really more of a playground, dawn until dark should work. Parks Committee is recommending open from dawn until dusk at Kendall Park.

Since School Park is very residential, the Parks Committee is recommending that also be open from dawn until dusk.

Committee input/recommendations for next month's agenda – We'll have the review of budgeted items again. We should plan on having the budget completed by the end of the October meeting. We'll set a date to walk all the Town parks at the September meeting, somewhere between September 20 and October 18. Clerk will email Pat and Mike telling them to think about dates between the next two regular meetings.

Motion made/second Jim/Mike M. to adjourn at 7:22PM. Carried.

These minutes are subject to correction at the next regular monthly Parks Committee meeting.

Douglas Smith
Town Clerk