

Salem Park & Recreation Commission

Date and Time: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 at 6:45pm
Meeting Location: 5 Broad Street
Members Present: Vice Chair Leslie Tuttle and Chris Burke, Bob Callahan, James Shea
Members Absent: Chair Amy Everitt
Others Present: Janet Puleo, ~~Ashley Steeves~~, Lisa Joubert, Charity Lezama, Laura Assade
Recorder: Stacy Kilb

Meeting Called to Order

Approval of July Minutes

There is one small amendment in the new business section re seafood festival: the Department may have received funding, but did not have figures. Shea wonders about the guarantee. The Department was to have received 10% of Sales; Shea thinks a minimum of \$4500 was guaranteed but is uncertain.

Callahan motions to accept the minutes as amended, is seconded by Burke, and all are in favor.

Visitors

Janet Puleo – Aaron's 5K Fun Run for CDH; Requesting the use of Forest River Park on October 3, 2015 for a charitable fundraiser for Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia (CDH)

Ms. Puleo presents the details of her event. They are trying to raise awareness of CDH. This is not a timed race; all proceeds will go to CHERUBS, a nonprofit organization. Some local departments and others are sponsoring this event. She is requesting use of the park as well as a fee waiver so they can make a larger donation.

Shea motions to approve with fee waiver, is seconded by Callahan, and the motion passes unanimously.

Ashley Steeves – B & S Fitness; Requesting approval for the Devils Chase to run through the Salem Common, Winter island and the Willows on October 31, 2015

The Commission is asked to vote even though the applicant is not present. She will make minimum \$500 donation to Park and Rec and also a \$1000 donation to the Plummer Home. The race draws about 1000 people who each pay a registration fee of \$40. Partanen sent out invoices and got a \$1200 check from them already. Shea notes this is a for profit organization running race to make money. He guesses they earn \$40-60K gross revenue and would like to see the applicant. Tuttle wants to support local businesses but Shea is still not convinced.

Partanen sent out to all road race applications. A new application for 2016 requires that financials be submitted so the Commission and Department will know how much they plan to make, and will also see races they will lose money on, but Shea says it doesn't happen. Shea wonders what the Salem police department thought of this race being on Halloween; they already approved it. Callahan thinks donations should perhaps be tied to the number of participants. Burke and Callahan comment on the setup of the race. Tuttle comments this is the 7th annual one.

A motion to approve is made by Burke, seconded by Callahan, and passes 3-0, with Shea abstaining.

Rosemary O'Connor - Resident; Providing an updated narrative about the glacier signage for Mack Park

Lisa Joubert presents in Ms. O'Connor's instead. She reached out to Dr. Hanson, geologist at Salem State, and presents her suggestions. The sign will read at an 8th grade reading level. Dr. Hanson said other formations were noteworthy but did not elaborate. Their intent was a single sign near the road that could be read from a school bus. Other features would require bigger or multiple signs.

Callahan approves of the concept and feels that the information is accurate.

A motion to approve the project, to be coordinated with Partanen re language and type of sign, is made by Callahan, seconded by Shea, and passes unanimously.

Merideth McDonald/Charity Lezama- Salem YMCA – Requesting permission use the Salem Willows for the Witch City 5k on October 17, 2015

Ms. Lezama presents, describing the event. All details are the same as in previous year. Partanen comments that there is a motorcycle event the day after. Funds raised will be used for financial aid.

A motion to approve is made by Callahan, seconded by Burke, and all are in favor.

Laura Assade – City of Salem; Requesting to sell alcohol at Peabody Street Park on 8/23, 8/30, 9/06 & 9/13 from 6:30-8:30pm during the Salsa Sunday events

Ms. Assade is director of Constituent Services for Mayor Driscoll, working in partnership with the CDC. This event is to fundraise for scholarships, raise awareness of the area, and draw business in. They have received Licensing Dept. approval for North Shore Bartenders to be present. It is an 8 week series but will be outdoors on these 4 dates. It is a social gathering at the park and a family friendly event; kids help clean up afterward.

Sangria and beer will be offered. Shea comments that he understands and have issued licenses previously; will there be fenced in area for alcohol? Yes, it will be in a controlled space in the park, and must be consumed in that area; there will be a police detail. Amount of alcohol will not be limited per person, except as per bartender discretion. Ms. Assade notes that the event is only 2 hours and many people only come for the last hour. She assures the Commission that many people will be watching this, but Shea still feels there should be a limit as much as is possible, on how much alcohol an individual can consume. Ms. Assade has been attending but another City representative will be there while she is away for two Sundays.

It is uncertain why the North Shore CDC representative did not bring up alcohol previously. Callahan comments that time is short and he did not see a posted licensing board meeting though Ms. Assade went yesterday. They did not provide any restrictions given that there are only two options, but Callahan is not comfortable with this.

The event has been running since August 2nd. The series has seen progressively greater attendance each week since then. Burke wonders when the concept of wanting to serve alcohol came about; it has always been a part but the assumption that NS Bartenders would present was wrong. NS Bartenders is the organization the City uses for these events. The event runs from 6:30-8:30 PM.

Shea is concerned still about unlimited drinks. Ms. Assade says they can impose a three drink limit as requested. The police detail will ensure that people do not bring alcohol in.

Shea motions to approve with a limit of 3 drinks, Callahan adds that this should be done one week at a time, based on there being no issues. If the police come to the organization or this Commission, the permit would be revoked for the remaining sessions, though they do not need to come before us again. Tuttle thinks it should rest with licensing board and it does. Callahan is concerned others may come in and request multiple licenses in the future.

A motion to approve is made by Shea, seconded by Burke, to issue the license on the condition of a 3 drink limit per person, along with oversight by Partanen, to ensure that there are no issues week to week. Callahan asks if base approval of use of park based on licensing board approval, but at this point Shea objects to adding things on after a motion and second have occurred.

Burke asks who applied to licensing board. NS Bartenders applied to that Board, and the City is paying them. That partnership is not noted on the permit.

Superintendent's Report **Revenue Report**

Witch House revenue is up, despite having had to replace the A/C.

There follows some discussion of Winter Island re Sail Salem. Callahan feels that there should have been a payback to the City due to the amount of resources the event consumed, though it was very well run. Burke comments on another fishing event that was also good.

Summer program update

Partanen provides an overview of new programs and changes. Tuttle asks about lack of bathrooms in one area. Partanen does not have a solution since a Porta Potty would get flipped. There is no one to clean restrooms at Palmer Cove. Most are neighborhood kids but it is more of a concern for Department. Kids show up and leave without supervision; some have registered but we don't track them, so there is a little bit of structure but it's essentially a free drop in program.

Fall Booklet being prepared with many new programs

It is being revamped with wordy descriptions being reduced.

Parks & Facility

Little League is requesting a fence extension at Splaine Park

Partanen describes the current and proposed extensions of the fence. Who will pay for fence is under negotiation. Currently people cut through the field regardless of whether there is a game in progress. Callahan asks about a gate on the fence. There is one there already. Partanen is concerned about the width of the path and the logistics are discussed. Fencing options and pricing are described.

A motion to allow the fence extension is made by Shea, seconded by Callahan, and passes unanimously.

Burke wonders about the contours of the path and fence and this is discussed. There should be a curve but Partanen will collaborate with Little League.

Peter Porcello director, and Rick Nye, treasurer of Little League, raise some additional concerns. Until now, the Little League has kept up the fields. While they are happy to hear about and accept any improvements (as presented to the Conservation Commission previously), they are somewhat disturbed that the Little League had not been consulted about or included in any discussions of said improvements. They have several large sponsors and feel strongly that they should be included in the planning process. Shea is uncertain why they were not consulted, and agrees that the Little League should have been included earlier in the process, and suggests that they present any requests now.

Callahan comments that the Little League should jump in but not let on that they are offended, while at the same time making the project planners aware that there are other stakeholders involved.

A motion is made by Shea to call a meeting including the Salem Little League, Partanen and City Engineer David Knowlton, to involve the Little League in planning matters, seconded by Burke, and all are in favor.

Final approval must go through the Parks and Rec Commission and Mr. Porcesllo will be informed. Shea feels that the meeting should happen soon. The plan as previously presented will be worked on; no designs were final so Knowlton will come before board again. Artificial turf downsides are discussed. Salem could host all tournaments with fence extensions and a regulation field.

Working on a plan for some upgrades to the RV Field

\$26K has been allocated to increase power to the RV field at Winter Island.

Zip Trips Fox News wants to do a segment on the Common on Friday, Sept. 4th during its 6-10AM morning broadcast, from there. There are no objections and Partanen will get in touch the Common Neighborhood Association.

Callahan comments on the seafood festival, but there is no word on income from that event. His opinion is that the fencing situation should be changed, especially given the length of time it is in place, as it is extremely tacky. Stamps or bracelets could be used instead.

Working with planning on the trail around Winter island

This item is taken first since there is a presentation

Kathy Winn Planning Dept. and Kyle Zick, Consultant – last time for Fort Pickering, this time for trail around winter island.

Mr. Zick describes the different elements that must be considered on Winter Island. He describes the purpose and alignment of the trail, which will be for bikes and pedestrians, and must be handicap accessible as per outdoor recreation (not building) guidelines. This is important for conserving the archaeological resources on the island.

There is an informal police shooting range and that use must also be considered, and will be coordinated with the police. Callahan comments that it is only used once a year in late November. Stormwater management will also be addressed. Interpretive signage will be added; they may work with Salem State or Salem Sound Coastwatch to determine themes and text. Seating along the path is also being considered. Path material options are outlined. Placement of the trail, viewing areas and general trail construction are discussed.

Callahan asks Ms. Winn why the path does not go around the whole island (Fort Pickering). There will still be a path for public access, but it will not be as elaborate and will not accommodate bikes, in order to preserve the Fort. This project is under a separate grant from the invasives removal at the Fort. This grant is a \$300,000 PARC grant.

Shea comments that he is in favor of asphalt because it would be easiest to maintain. He wonders what the disadvantage to having skateboarders, a possible issue Mr. Zick had mentioned, as he does not see it as being a problem. Burke comments about longboards, used more for distances as a bike, vs the more destructive short boards used for tricks.

Burke wonders about accommodations for the sail boats by the barracks building. Mr. Zick feels the trail is not compromised. Callahan comments that the park and boat storage are separate issues; the former is something Parks and Rec allows the harbormaster to do. The Commission's agenda is to make the park accessible to the public, so the boats must be worked around the plan, not the other way around. Tuttle comments that parking

for trailers is required but boat storage is not. Boats storage is NOT supposed to be taking place in the summer, though it often does in the winter. Burke opines that the trail should go low on a cliff and away from the road near the harbormaster office. Mr. Zick comments that the group explored both options and they felt that staying up at that level was better. Callahan agrees.

Tuttle is concerned that this will be a family oriented path that ends with them walking into a chaotic parking lot. She wonders how to best handle this. Ms. Winn comments that there could be signage advising them to turn around and exit the path the way they came. Mr. Zick comments that the trail could go around behind the hangar and will look into the option.

Tuttle liked the chip and seal option for the trail surface. Tuttle comments that the trails in Acadia and they hold up well for biking. Stone dust paths at the Common were installed a couple of years ago and the only maintenance has been added stone dust.

No vote is needed.

Old Business

New Business

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn is made by Shea, seconded by Callahan, and all approve.

Next Meeting: September 15, 2015

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacy Kilb
Clerk, Salem Park & Recreation Commission