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Parks and Recreation Minutes 01/23/2001

Tuesday, January 23, 2001

The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting came to order at 7:30 PM in the Town Hall Auditorium. Commission members in attendance included Bernice Jones, Don Vitters, Joe Carabello and Mary Tegan. Also present were Superintendent of Recreation Joseph Connelly.

Public in attendance included: Steve Moniak, ASC; Kevin Wall, Adult Soccer; Chris Hall, AC; Jim Robillard, Babe Ruth; Al Ticehurst, Babe Ruth; Joe Hart, Little League; Bill Doherty, Lacrosse; Dan Willey, Lacrosse; Dave Good, Lacrosse; Lynne Camarano, Softball; Kambiz Vatan, AUS.

Field Permit Policy Discussion

Commission Chairperson Don Vitters reviewed the reasons for the Park Commission adopting a field permit policy. Mr. Vitters stated the increasing demand on field and field maintenance has prompted the Commission to develop a written policy. Mr. Vitters stated that it was various discussion with the Field Task Force that initiated the idea of a written policy.

Mr. Connelly stated that the intent of the policy was to have written guidelines that allowed the fair and equitable distribution of fields annually. Mr. Connelly reviewed the policy and gave background on each section of the policy.

Mr. Connelly explained how the field fee survey was compiled, but reminded everyone that it was difficult to compare towns. Mr. Connelly explained that the Arlington Recreation Department was 99.9% self-supporting and the funding in other towns may operate differently.

Mr. Connelly asked those in attendance to review the comment and response sheets in their packets.

Mr. Connelly reviewed the estimated field permitting fee budget. Mr. Connelly explained how the field administration fee was calculated and gave some examples of how the remaining funds could be spent. Mr. Connelly stated that the funds would be kept in the "Park Beautification Fund" to keep fees separate from the other Recreation Division revenues.

Question and Answer and Comments:

Jim Robillard:

- Concern over whether or not Babe Ruth could still put money into the field if funds were available.
- Concern over maintenance and condition of our fields in comparison to other towns.

Response

Mr. Connelly stated that if Babe Ruth had the funding and received approval from the Commission and DPW prior to making field improvements, that he had no problem with the process. Mr. Connelly stated that it was important not to confuse the field fee improvements with daily maintenance. Mr. Connelly stated that this new fee would not affect the daily maintenance on the fields. Mr. Connelly also asked individuals to compare like fields in surrounding towns.

Steve Moniak:

- Clinic participants have to pay \$5 the same as A/C participants even though clinic participants only use the field 1 day a week.
- Adult groups and non-resident groups should pay more.

Response

Mr. Connelly stated that in an effort to keep the administration of this policy as simplistic as possible that fees were being assessed on a participant basis and not a usage basis.

Kevin Wall:

- Was liability insurance necessary for his drop in soccer group?

Response

Mr. Connelly stated that he did not feel liability insurance would be necessary. The Commission and Mr. Connelly discussed liability of fields and ASC goal nets.

Al Ticehurst:

- Some parents have a problem when A/C is not off the fields at 5:30 PM and Arlington kids are waiting to get on the field.

Chris Hall:

- As A/C varsity baseball coach this should never happen unless it is a varsity game. As an Arlington Resident and member of St. Agnes parish the high school and their athletic program is an important part of St. Agnes and the community.

Bill Doherty:

- Question of Capital Improvement process

Response

Mr. Vitters explained the CIP process.

Mrs. Tegan stated that the \$5 fee should be considered a donation to the Rec department and viewed as a group effort to support field administration and improvements. Mrs. Tegan stated that the \$10,000 raised should not be viewed as the cure all.

Mr. Robillard

- Will the Commission advertise the fee in the Advocate to help our organization explain the rate increase to the parents?

Response

Mrs. Tegan asked if currently showed the parents a copy of all financial transaction of Babe Ruth? Mrs. Tegan explained that if you incorporate the \$5 into the registration fee and if asked state that it is a donation to Arlington Recreation.

Discussion continued between Commissioners and those in attendance.

Mr. Connelly handed out a draft copy of the spring field schedule and thanked those in attendance for their participation.

The Commission adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: _____
Joseph J. Connelly,
Superintendent of Recreation