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**Minutes of the Newburyport Parks Commission June 15, 2023**

NEWBURYPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY MEETING ROOM

Call to order: 6:00 p.m.

A quorum was present

Commissioners in attendance: Chair Ted Boretti, Matt Ellsworth, Charles Griffin, Anita Greenwood, Nicole Whelan

Also, in attendance: Manager of Special Projects Kim Turner, Diane Wise, Parks Admin.; Jason Lacroix, Yankee Homecoming; Nicolas Forestell, Rail Trail Pollinator Garden; Sandra Thaxter, Youth for Wildlife Murals.

**1. REVIEW OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes for May 18th were reviewed.

*Motion to approve the minutes as presented. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.*

**2. NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Yankee Homecoming Events at various parks - presented by Jason Lacroix**

Several parks are involved: Bartlett Mall, Baseball field at Cashman Park, Market Square, Inn Street.

Appropriate paperwork was submitted

Fees for park usage waived as the Yankee Homecoming is a 501 C (3). The Yankee Homecoming Committee will make a donation to the Parks once the final accounting of the event has been completed.

**General Discussion:**

* City has Liability Policy and license to cover the Brew Fest obtained and approved by Public Safety, Licensing and City Counsel.
* Permission to use Alley Way this year for vendors has been approved by waterfront committee.
* Bartlett Mall will be used, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
* The fireworks are the same, 4 places in Cashman Park.
* Parade contracts are signed
* All Newburyport restaurants have the first right of approval to come out or not. Many restaurants are coming out to participate. Everything has been done to encourage Newburyport businesses to come out.
* Cost for cleanup, vendors pay fees.The Department of Public Works has a budget for cleanup.
* It was suggested that $3,000 to $4,000 be donated, however the amount will be determined by the Yankee Homecoming Committee after the event. The appropriate paperwork was submitted.

*Motion by Commissioner Ellsworth to approve with a copy of the 501 C(3) be provided and a donation be made after the fundraiser. Seconded by Commissioner Whalen. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.*

1. **BANNER @CCRT PRESENTED BY SANDRA THAXTER**

A request was made to find a permanent place for the Youth Public Wildlife Mural. Previously, a temporary banner was attached to the fence near the water treatment plant. Ms. Thaxter would like a permanent installation, made of appropriate materials, on the rail trail so that children know that their art work has an impact.

**General Discussion:**

* Commissioners agreed that the artwork previously displayed was not particularly informative and would be difficult for the public to understand what the children were attempting to portray.
* A suggestion was made that the focus on climate change should be clearer.
* Commission cannot approve placement until the artwork has been produced.
* Commissioners generally agreed that a place for temporary public art displays might be a valuable addition to the rail trail and would be open to returning to this discussion.

  *No Action Taken*

**C) Rail Trail Pollinator @ CCRT – PRESENTED BY NICOLAS FORESTELL**

Slide show presented. Group is committed to installing more pollinators. One public project in progress is at Colby Farms; a hayfield, 3000 square feet, was moved to a new spot, seeded and it is germinating. Project proposed is 350 square feet pollinator garden along Rail Trail. Proposal is to create two island beds filled with native perennials which are drought tolerant. There will be two volunteer days, one to remove the sod and the second one to install the plants. Rain barrel to be installed so that the plants can be watered. Long term maintenance there will be some ground cover planted. Goal is to have it be as little maintenance as possible. There is a large volunteer group available. If ever it was to be overgrown or neglected the land will be reclaimed by the parks department

*Motion to approve the Pollinator Garden along the Rail Trail, with the land to be reclaimed by the park if the garden is not maintained, by Commissioner Ellsworth, seconded by Commissioner Griffin. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.*

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

1. **BASKETBALL/TENNIS COURTS RESURFACED - Kim Turner**

Resurfacing will take place in July, 2023, of Upper Atkinson tennis courts and Cashman basketball and multipurpose courts. The input of the Commission was sought regarding the color choices and how the colors should be arranged on the Cashman multipurpose Court for tennis and pickleball.

**General Discussion:**

* Dark blue on the medium green will standardize all newly re-surfaced courts.
* On the multipurpose court at Cashman, the blue color of the pickleball court will extend beyond the baseline of tennis court, ensuring the whole of the pickleball court is painted.
* Lines will be white for tennis and yellow for pickleball

*Motion by Commissioner Ellsworth to accept the colors selected (as in the above discussion) for Atkinson Tennis and Cashman basketball/ multi-purpose court, seconded by Commissioner Greenwood. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.*

*Motion to adjourn. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.* Adjourned 7:06 PM.