

Portland Parks and Recreation Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 9, 2024

Buck-Foreman Community Center

Parks & Recreation Office

265 Main Street

Present: Commission Members: Chair, Karen Agogliati, Chris Donahue, Kevin Backman, Deb Rooth, Amie Leary, Regan Fitzgibbons

Also: Andy Dionne, Parks and Recreation Director

Absent: Jillian Crawford, Jim Tripp

1. Call to order

Karen Agogliati called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. Roll Call/Appointment of Alternates

No action.

3. Approval of Agenda

Chris Donahue made a motion to approve Agenda for September 9, 2024. Deb Rooth seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, August 12, 2024

Chris Donahue made a motion to approve minutes for Regular Meeting on June 10, 2024 as amended seconded by Kevin Backman. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Seasonal Events

“Come on Over Event” is scheduled on September 28, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. 5K/2.1 Mile Fitness Walk entry fees are now \$30.00 for 5K, \$20.00 for walkers. 85 have registered so far. Paper registration will be available for race day, cash only. Chris and Kevin will be painting lines for race. Stonehaven will volunteer. Registration table will be in a space away from vendors. Medals and trophies have been ordered. Water is available.

“Halloween on Main” is scheduled on October 25th. Commissioners will set up at 3:30 p.m. Event runs from 4:00 – 6:30 p.m. Commissioners have been asked to donate candy.

“Tree Lighting/Holiday Parade” is scheduled on December 8, 2023. Commissioners will set up at 4:00 p.m. Check-in is at 4:30 p.m. and parade begins at 5:00 p.m. Tree Lighting will follow the parade. Hot cocoa will be available. Cones, barricades, and rope will be set up along the street/parade route. Karen will provide the box for toy donations. PRC members will dress festively. Hot cocoa, raffle and toy box will be set up in one area for easy access. Performance by band/chorus was discussed. A meeting will be scheduled for logistics.

Amie discussed an event, “Color Run”, which will be a big draw for the town. A color run is a vibrant, fun way to fundraise for your organization or cause. It’s similar to a 5K with participants walking or running along a pre-planned route where they’re running through cascades of shimmering powder that turn them into living canvases of bright, swirling color. Participants are supplied with a race packet that includes a white t-shirt and colored powder.

6. Field and Facility Rental Policy

Policy is being reviewed by Town Attorney.

7. Park and Field Updates

The donation process for trees and benches was discussed. Andy is getting pricing from Prides Corner in Cromwell for shade trees. Examples of benches and trees will be available at the next meeting.

The possibility of using LOCIP funding to improve signage and entry way with a longer apron at Riverfront Park is still being discussed. Andy Dionne will check to see if work on an ADA compliant parking lot at Middlesex Avenue can be done at the same time.

8. Parks and Recreation Programs

Registration is open for recreational basketball. Grades K-1, and Grade 2 will be held from 12/4/2024 – 2/26/2025. There are 20 openings for these sessions. Skyhawk programs are scheduled from 1/4/2025 – 2/8/2025 for Grades K through Grades 2 for girls and boys. There are 20 openings for these sessions.

Registration is also open for Grades 3-8 Rec. Basketball Leagues. Player evaluations for these leagues will be on October 9, 10 and 11 so that practices can be scheduled.

Anyone who registers for a Grades 3-8 Girls League before September 12 will be entered into a drawing for 4 free tickets to the CT Sun - Chicago Sun basketball game at Mohegan Sun.

Parent volunteers are needed.

Men’s/Women’s basketball will begin on September 10th for Women and September 11th for Men.

Registration is open for other programs. Drop-In Volleyball is scheduled to start on Tuesdays in November.

9. Budget and Capital Needs

There was no discussion.

10. BOS Liaison Discussion

There was no discussion.

11. Public Comment

There was nothing to report.

12. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Kevin Backman and seconded by Deb Rooth. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Guite

Recording Secretary