

Approved 5/8/07
HAMPDEN PARKS & RECREATION
MEETING MINUTES APRIL 24, 2007

Meeting called to order at 7:33pm.

Attendance: Chris McDonald, Huck House and Mark Goossens. Bob White arrived at 7:53pm. Also in attendance were Sue Rauscher, Carolyn Brennan and Kara Vicalvi.

Minutes: The minutes from April 17, 2007 were read. Huck made a motion to accept the minutes from April 17, 2007 as read. Mark seconded. All in favor and so voted 3-0.

Bills: Reviewed and paid.

Spray Park: Sue gave an update of the progress on the Spray Park. The fill will be spread and the loam will be coming tomorrow. The Parks & Rec. department has money set aside from CPA for loam. We will pay \$1000 for more loam and the Spray Park Committee will pay \$4000. Water will also be needed to fill the tank. The existing well pump could not handle filling it. The fence has been adjusted by Pappelardo Fence Company. Carolyn will check with South Shore on the water testing requirements. The opening ceremony of the Spray Park will be June 16 when the Spray Park Committee officially hands over the water park to the Parks & Rec. department. The brick walkways will be installed. Twenty-five gold bricks (people who donated services or \$1000 or more) will be in place. The engraved bricks will not be ready until after July 3. Solid bricks will be installed until the engraved ones are ready. Sue would like to send out some special invitations, have a small presentation and maybe refreshments.

Fundraising is still going on. There will be a Ladies' Night at the Hampden Country Club on April 28. Twenty women vendors will be set up and a raffle will be held. A portion of the profits will be donated to the Spray Park. A tag sale will be held at Landmark Realty also on the 28th. The proceeds will benefit the Spray Park.

Sue will email Deb the names of the six raffle winners who won a free week at the Summer Program. The Board asked Sue for some names of towns that have Spray Parks so that they could talk to someone and see how other towns run their water parks. Sue recommended Chicopee. She will find the name of someone to talk to about how things are done.

Sue would like to see a fresh group of volunteers become the Friends of Memorial Park to focus specifically on the Park. This would be a separate non-profit group like RAH, to financially take care of and possibly continue on with the Spray Park. Sue will work on volunteers for this. Sue will ask Beth DeSousa to check on the change of officers. Sue has to close out her Friends of Memorial Park account and hand the monies over to the town. There was another account that Sue thinks checks may have gone to that should have gone to her. This may have been created when Donna was Treasurer. Tracy may know about this.

Summer Program: Registration forms for the Summer Program will go out to the schools the first week of May and again in June before school gets out. Kara will make up a flyer with a brief describing each of the theme weeks of camp. This will also go out through the schools. Announcements will be placed in the Hampden-Wilbraham Times and the Reminder letting people know that we are accepting registrations for the Summer Program. After care will be offered from 2-

4pm for an additional \$15/child/day and \$10 for each additional family member. This year's staff will consist of the camp director, 2 head counselors, 8 counselors, 10-12 CITs, 1 snack bar and volunteers. The head counselors and the director are required to be CPR and first aid certified. More staff may be hired if needed once the registrations come in. Kara will check on the state regulations pertaining to staff/child ratios.

Baseball: A player on the pony team has decided not to play this year. No refund request has come in. Uniforms have not been issued to that team. The uniform deposit check will be returned.

Soccer Field Use Request: A Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League coach has asked to use the TWB soccer field for his women's team. They play 14 games, 7 of which would be at TWB. There are no practices. They would start the first or second week of June and go through the last week of July. Then they would have playoffs. The Board would like to know where the players are from and what age group they are. Table to next meeting.

Old Business: Ball fields – We are still in need of a field worker for Memorial Park and TWB. Rick Willis has already done a lot of work on the baseball field.

Spray Park Meeting – There will be a special Spray Park meeting. The date will be decided at the May 8, 2007 meeting. The Board will use the second meeting of May each year to decide the opening date of the Spray Park.

New Business: Prospect Lawn care – Chris from Prospect called asking if we want to do the first feeding on the soccer fields. Bob made a motion to call Prospect Lawn care and have them fertilize the large and small soccer fields at TWB. Mark seconded. All in favor and so voted 4-0. Bob will fertilize the infield at TWB.

Soccer Field Setup – A gift certificate is given every year to the person who sets up the lines on the soccer fields. Huck made a motion to give a \$50 gift certificate to the person who aligns the soccer fields. Bob seconded. All in favor and so voted 4-0.

Operating Expense Budget – The Board will be replacing the current computer in the Parks & Recreation office. We are also in need of a new cart for the movie equipment. Bob will get a price for a new PC for the next meeting.

Bob made a motion to adjourn at 9:48pm. Mark seconded. All in favor and so voted 4-0.