

MIDDLETOWN RECREATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, January 9, 2019

The Middletown Recreation Commission held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 9, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in the Recreation & Parks Department office.

ATTENDANCE: Chairman Dave Bechtle, Vice-Chairwoman Shawna Strenfel, Wayne Hawkins, Daniel Higbie, Michael Torres, Alderman Jerry Kleiner, Alderman Tom Burr and Supt. Chris Brinckerhoff.

Absent: Rollin Lybolt

GUESTS: Middletown High School Student Cristian Carrasquillo, Minisink Valley High School Student Allison Joyce and her mother Valerie Joyce (Both students are in a government class)

CORRESPONDENCE: None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: The minutes of the November 14, 2018 meeting were unanimously approved on a MOTION by Wayne Hawkins; seconded by Daniel Higbie. There was no December Meeting.

AUDIT: November program revenues were \$11,610.00 and December revenues were \$22,490.00. There was a \$5,000.00 donation for the Dog Park from the Knox Family Foundation. Bringing year-to-date revenue total to \$379,633.94

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Personnel – There are only full time workers in the parks department until spring. Program winter seasonal staff has been hired for basketball, cheerleading, volleyball and soccer. Year round program part-timers are pre-school, teen center, after school programs, boxing and building custodians. Totaling 44 part-timers for the winter.

Activities – All winter holiday special events went well and were well attended. Attendance for Polar Express at the Paramount Theatre was over 780. All winter programs are in progress. County Waste donated 78 bicycles to the Orange County Youth Bureau. We were the drop-off/ pick-up site and received 18 bikes to give to children in need during the holiday.

Maintenance – All leaves were removed from the parks and the City Property on the Community Campus. A new fence was installed at Bennett Hill Park along South Street. During winter months staff is servicing equipment, assisting with snow removal and other city projects. Due to a mild start to winter they will be working on the War Memorial Pool Parking Lot.

RECREATION & PARKS COMMITTEE: Alderman Burr reported that City had its reorganizational meeting and the Recreation & Parks Committee has the same aldermen assigned as last year.

OLD BUSINESS: Paperwork, permits and planning continue for the Davidge Park Expansion. Looking to have RFP's go out soon and hoping to have work start in the spring. The DOT has a few questions about traffic related to the park. All the playground equipment has been received for installation in three parks, which will begin this spring. The drainage problem at the Dog Park will be completed in the spring along with improvements and beautification to the park from a \$5,000 donation. The department has contracted with Business Automation Services, Inc. (BAS) to implement our online registration. We hope to start this service for our spring programs. End of the year assessments, reimbursements, and final reports have been completed for our 2018 grants.

NEW BUSINESS: Superintendent Brinckerhoff is working on finalize the 2018 Annual Report. Meetings, contacting key stakeholders and site visits are all in progress in the planning of presenting the recreational use of the reservoir to the public for biking and hiking. Port Jervis has had incredible success in the development of their watershed.

Shawna mentioned she would like to see Before Care added to out of school time programming. Commission members inquired about sleigh riding at Maple Hill Park this winter. (I checked into this and it will not be possible with the current construction going on.)

Wayne inquired about the damage done to the dog park and if the person would have to pay for damages. We have given the police and corporate council the cost of temporary repairs and it is currently being resolved in the court system.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Alderman Kleiner wanted to acknowledge the positive presence of the police department at many special events and thanked them for being involved in so many activities and programs.

ADJOURNMENT: The January meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. on a MOTION by Shawna Strenfel and seconded by Dan Higbie

NEXT MEETING: The February meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in the Recreation & Parks Department office.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Brinckerhoff, Superintendent