**MINUTES OF THE RAYNHAM PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION**

**Regular Monthly Meeting, December 5, 2023 6:00 p.m.**

**Gymkhana Building, King Phillip St, Raynham, MA**

**In attendance:** Commissioner Chris Shaw, Commissioner Riley Menconi, Director Tim McRae, and Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary Samantha Sturtevant.

Chris called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m. Chris entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the December 5th meeting. Riley made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 5th meeting. Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

Chris called for old business.

**Old Business (2):**

1. *McKenney Field Fence*

Tim said that they are still waiting for materials to come in for the McKenney fence. Those should be in soon.

1. *Raynham Giants/Jay Messler*

Tim said that the bleachers are in at the Bettencourt Field for the Raynham Giants. They look great. The Raynham Giants has sent their appreciation to the Commission for the support and help for their cause.

Chris called for new business.

**New Business (3):**

1. *2024 Meeting Dates*

Tim said that Sammi did a wonderful job putting together the 2024 Commission Meeting Dates. Last year, there was a meeting scheduled for the first day back after Christmas break on Tuesday January 3rd. Tim asked if they should keep that date or push it back because last year that meeting had to be cancelled.

Chris asked why it was cancelled.

Tim recalled it being a very busy week and there weren’t enough people for the meeting. It doesn’t matter either way if they should keep it Tuesday January 2nd or move it to January 9th.

Chris said that they can keep it for Tuesday January 2nd.

Tim said that’s not a problem. He also mentioned that the Fourth of July is on a Thursday this upcoming year, July 2nd shouldn’t be a bad day to have the meeting because there may be just as much interference as the week of the Fourth of July. It is usually rescheduled due to where if falls during the week.

Chris agreed.

1. *Eagle Scout Project*

Tim provided the Commission an Eagle Scout Service Project Proposal. A young gentleman by the name of Wayne Blounts would like to clean up and breakup the letters for the stone at the Johnson’s Pond with the names of all of the Veterans. He is looking for approval from the Commission. Tim thinks it’s a very worthwhile project because every time you go by, you can’t really see the letters on that stone. He’s going to clean it up, do some light painting to brighten it up a little bit on the letters, and also do some landscaping work around the rock for his project this year. The Eagle Scouts have done a lot of good work over the years.

Chris said that it’s pretty good. Chris entertained a motion to approve the Eagle Scout Service Project Proposal.

Riley made a motion to approve the Eagle Scout Service Project Proposal. Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

1. *Lion’s Club*

Tim said that since the agenda went through, they had to add a couple of things on. They are looking for a couple of one-day liquor licenses. One of them is for Friday January 26th, 2024 from 5:00p.m. – 10:00p.m. for their Sportsmen Game Dinner and the other is for Sunday February 11th, 2024 from 3:00p.m. – 10:00p.m. for their annual Superbowl Sunday Party. There are no conflicts for those dates and they have always been approved in the past.

Riley made a motion to approve the one-day liquor licenses for Friday January 26th, 2024 from 5:00p.m. – 10:00p.m. for the Sportsmen Game Dinner and Sunday February 11th, 2024 from 3:00p.m. – 10:00p.m. for the Sunday Superbowl Party. Chris seconded and a unanimous vote followed.

Tim said that the Lion’s Club was also seeking approval from the Commission to have a blood drive on Saturday May 18th, 2024 from 8:00a.m. – 1:00p.m. They have already received approval from the Board of Health.

Riley said that he doesn’t see a problem with it, he thinks that it’s a good cause.

Tim said that he will let them know and it will be a good, worthwhile, and busy day.

**Commissioners’ Reports:**

**Riley Menconi:** Riley said that the Christmas Tree Lighting with Santa was quite a hit. Kudos to Tim and all involved for making that a fun and successful night for families. Riley wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Chris Shaw:** Chris stopped by to see the Christmas Tree Lighting event on Saturday. He said that he didn’t get to see Santa but the Community Room at the Gymkhana building was very nicely decorated by the girls in the office. Chris thanked them and everyone else who was involved in putting that event together. The Community Room is awesome. It’s been a long time since that building has been up for discussion but he thinks that it’s turning out to be something that’s going to be a great asset for the Park and Recreation Department. All of the lights on the gazebo and the tree could be seen from all the way up the street. Chris thanked everybody who was involved in decorating and putting that event together. Chris wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Staff Reports:**

**Sammi:** Sammi said that the holiday season has been going really well. The Christmas Tree Lighting went great. The first day of the basketball season has started which seemed to go really well. Bethany has put together a countdown to Christmas. She made a poster and trifold for the school. She’s also been working really hard on a craft everyday to lead up to Christmas for the countdown. Tim has been there, right by all of our sides, helping out too and it’s been busy, but it’s been a great holiday season.

**Tim reported the following:**

-Tim wanted to thank Sammi, Heather, and Bethany for the decorating for the Christmas Tree Lighting. Tim also extended a thank you to Norm and his crew for helping get those lights set up. It was a wonderful night. There were probably about over one-hundred people. Santa was great, took a lot of pictures. It was a fun event. It was great getting back to it this year because last year it was cancelled due to the rain.

-Basketball practice started this week. Numbers are up compared to last year which is great. The numbers are starting to get back a little closer every year to where they were before COVID.

-Heather and Tim went to Taunton High earlier in the afternoon. Taunton High is offering a program/class to learn how to be officials in various sports. Tim learned about it in the Taunton Daily Gazette. They reached out and got the chance to meet with the Athletic Director and one of the other gentlemen that run the program. They will be partnering with the Park and Recreation Youth Basketball Program. Their referees will be refereeing the second and third grade games to give the kids a chance to gain experience and to get themselves ready for if it’s something they decide they want to do in their future. It’s a great program. The gazette did a story as well as Fox 25. It was a lot of fun being there earlier in the afternoon.

-Santa’s Calling will be next week. Information will be going out tomorrow. Those spots fill up fast, so if anyone is interested, Tim advised them to sign-up quick. They only have a limited amount of spots available.

-Tim concluded by wishing everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Riley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chris seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:14p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sammi Sturtevant

Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary