

## **PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **Minutes**

**October 4, 2011**

A meeting of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee was called to order on October 4, 2011 at 7:05 p.m. in Sherrillbrook Park. Those present were: Bill Bonsted, Omar Massoud, John Pryor, Jerry Pitarresi, Peggy Brady, John D'Amore, Sean Virkler, and Mike Jeffery.

Mike Jeffery began the meeting by updating the committee on revenues. The dog run is at \$19,000 for three years, the summer recreation programs have increased over the last three years except for the swim program. The splash pad revenue also went up a little from last year. The fee for the splash pad will be raised in 2012. Pavilion rentals have also been up over the last three years. Mike Jeffery stated that New Hartford youth groups and churches have been free in the past, but in 2012 they will be charged for pavilion rentals. Resident fees will go up \$5 for a small pavilion and \$10 for a large, non-residents will be going up higher.

Mike Jeffery then stated the Rec Center roof repair has been completed. The header trench has also been replaced. HJ Brandles repaired the header trench for \$25,000.

Mike Jeffery then showed the committee two proposed Veteran Memorial signs. He asked the committee which one they preferred, and this will be brought to the Veterans Committee for their recommendation. The request for proposals was sent out to six different sign companies. The price for the sign depending on which one is chosen from Siriani Signs would be between \$5,900 to \$8,500 or \$8,000 to \$10,000. Mike Jeffery stated that the \$1,500, which was used for the original sign, would be replenished to the fund. A poll was taken and the committee preferred seven to two, the gray-pillared style sign. The committee also recommended that we consider utilizing the reddish colored brick in place of the gray.

Mike Jeffery then reviewed the 2012 proposed budget, which has been submitted. Everything is at the same rate or a little below with the exception of parks equipment, which is about \$5,000 higher. Depending on union negotiations, the staffing could be cut. Shift changes have been implemented to avoid overtime for closing parks. The police department is currently locking the parks.

Mike Jeffery then discussed safety in the parks. He stated that the Town Supervisor has expressed concerns about public safety and high usage numbers in our park system. Mike would like to form a sub-committee for safety. He would like the committee to assist him in ways to make the parks safer without hindering the residential usage. The following committee members volunteered for the safety committee: John Pryor, Jerry Pitarresi, Peggy Brady, John D'Amore, Sean Virkler and Bill Bonsted. The safety sub-committee will make recommendations for the non-resident fees for pavilion use. A safety meeting was then scheduled for Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. at the Parks & Recreation office.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Owens