

Town of Montville
Parks & Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes for October 19, 2016
6:30 p.m. – Montville Town Hall – Town Council Chambers

1. Call to Order
Vice-Chairman Hartman called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.
2. Roll Call
Present were Commissioners Joseph Berardy, Eileen Cicchese, Nancy delaCruz, Ryan Hartman, and Kristin Ventresca. Absent were Commissioners Matt Beaupre, Scott LaVallie, Kerri Lawton, and Karen Perkins. Also present were Parks & Recreation Director Peter Bushway, Town Council Liaison Laura Tanner, and Public Works Director Donald Bourdeau, Jr.
3. Adjustments to the agenda – *none*
4. Remarks from the Public regarding items on the agenda with a three-minute limit – *none*
5. To consider and act on a motion to approve:
 - a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of September 21, 2016
Motion made by Commissioner Cicchese, seconded by Commissioner delaCruz.
Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Motion carried.
6. Director's Report for October 2016
Director Bushway reported that the stencils ordered to line the basketball courts at Desjardins Park and Fair Oaks Community Center were inadequate. As such, the stencils will be returned to the vendor and he is in the process of researching alternative stencils for purchase.
7. P&R Newsletter for November 2016
Photographs from the Scarecrow Village and Pumpkin Decorating events will be added to the Newsletter. The following edits were proposed:

Fall Programs Wrap Up: Pumpkin Decorating, 2nd and 3rd lines:
...~~P~~pumpkin ~~D~~decorating event held on Sunday, October 23rd. 50+ children painted,
~~and~~ glued, ~~designed~~ and ~~decorated~~ ~~on~~ pumpkins...

Trick or Trunk, 2nd line:
50 families/~~and~~businesses/organizations...

Commissioner Cicchese requested that a link to the Newsletter be placed on the Parks & Recreation webpage for easier access.
8. Reports from Finance – *no discussion*

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9. Unfinished Business

a. Continuation of the Regular Meeting on September 21, 2016

Motion made by Commissioner Berardy, seconded by Commissioner Ventresca, to table item 10(d), Email from Councilor Tanner, to the Commission's next Regular Meeting. Discussion: Commissioner Ventresca stated the need for closure on the item as some Commissioners may not have had the opportunity to fully voice their concerns. Voice vote, 3-0-2. Voting in Favor: Commissioners Berardy, delaCruz, Ventresca. Voting in Opposition: None. Voting in Abstention: Commissioners Cicchese and Hartman.

4. Communications – *none*

5. Remarks from the Public – *none*

6. Remarks from the Commissioners -

Commissioner Ventresca submitted a formal letter to the Town Council in support of Councilor Tanner's e-mail and agreed with the lack of communication within the Commission. She did not find her e-mail to be a personal attack, but merely a statement based upon her observations. Due to the tension of the meeting, she felt that the Commission "got off topic" and their behavior was not indicative of the Town, to whom they owe much more.

Commissioner Cicchese also submitted a formal letter to Town Council Chairman Joseph Jaskiewicz. As volunteers for the Town, she was disgusted with the treatment they received from Chairman Jaskiewicz and, while she pondered exiting the meeting as did Commissioner Lawton, felt the need to remain and defend their position. She is considering resigning from the Commission.

7. Remarks from Town Council Liaison Laura Tanner

Councilor Tanner felt that her e-mail was misunderstood. Her goal was to clarify the existing communication issues, based upon her observations, and was not a direct attack.

8. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Cicchese, seconded by Commissioner delaCruz. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

b. Future of Fair Oaks Community Center

The questionnaire has been approved by the Committee and will be e-mailed to the Commissioners. The questionnaire has been forwarded to the Town Council requesting guidance as to how to proceed. The Committee is currently investigating the various available funding and distribution avenues for the survey.

Recently approached by Youth Services, the Committee approved the installation of a sign, which would be funded by Youth Services, at the Community Center.

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c. Camp Oakdale

Sixteen *No Dogs Allowed* signs have been ordered and will be placed at various locations throughout their parks. The signs will be posted in conjunction with the larger kiosks that will include the map and the relevant Ordinance. The Police Department has been informed. Discussion ensued regarding the strict enforcement of the Ordinance. Councilor Tanner will raise the issue at the next Public Safety Commission meeting.

A request from a rugby team to utilize Field 7, which is lighted, for a few of their practices was received. The fee for field usage is \$25.00 and \$20.00 for the use of the lights. Once turned on the lights will automatically shut off at 11:00 p.m. The team is comprised of group of young adults from various towns in the region, including Montville.

Concerns regarding a recent attempted and actual break-in at the football concession stand and the possibility of installing cameras were raised. The Park has also been victim to various forms of vandalism and has incurred damages in the past. As such, they are currently investigating the possibility of purchasing game cams with motion sensors. Commissioner Ventresca suggested the possibility of closing Camp Oakdale at 11:00 p.m. The gates are closed during the winter months. Commissioner Cicchese suggested the possibility of providing the residents with alerts so that they might be made aware of and, possibly, self-police the happenings.

d. Dog Park Committee Update

The Committee's large fundraising event, which began in June, has concluded and, as of September 29, the Committee has raised \$12,689.24. The Committee also held a Tag Sale on October 15. The Committee is currently in the process of requesting donations for supplies and services for the fencing. Concerned about the funding of the project, Commissioner Hartman recommended the Committee formulate a budget so as to ensure that all of the necessary costs will be covered. The Police Department has also requested that the Committee install a pedestrian gate for emergency access along Route 163.

e. Basketball Program (Commissioner Beaupre)

Tryouts were held during the first week of October for two (2) boys' and one (1) girl's team. Made up of Middle School students, the teams will be practicing at Tyl Middle School on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. It was noted that the program is not a Parks & Recreation Program, but a program under the AAU (Amateur Athletic Union). Discussion ensued regarding a misunderstanding of a basketball-related meeting that Director Bushway attended so that he could be informed and coordinate the timing of the Parks & Recreation programs that utilize the facility. Director Bushway stated that, initially, the coaches, including Commissioner Beaupre, were planning to formulate travel teams and requested the Commission's support in their endeavor. As such, the item was added to the Agenda. They have since decided not to pursue the Commission's

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support and are working independently. The only day the Department is unable to utilize the gym is Thursdays. It was noted that the Policy states that the Parks & Recreation Department has scheduling priority over AAU. It is unknown as to how much support the schools are providing the AAU.

g. Trailer for stage

Public Works Director Bourdeau presented an estimate for a new 7' x 12' enclosed trailer off of the State Bid. The possibility of renting the stage to neighboring towns and/or organizations was raised. Should the stage be rented, the funds should be deposited into the Department's Special Revenue Fund. The Commission will be researching the possibility of renting the stage and a policy will be drafted for review. The item will be placed on next month's Agenda for further discussion.

Motion made by Commissioner Cicchese, seconded by Commissioner delaCruz, to approve the purchase of a new 7' x 12' enclosed trailer, as presented. Discussion: It is estimated that the trailer would be delivered within a few weeks. Voice vote, 4-0-1. Voting in Favor: Commissioners Cicchese, delaCruz, Hartman, and Ventresca. Voting in Opposition: None. Voting in Abstention: Commissioner Berardy. Motion carried.

h. Possible purchase of a more rigid outdoor movie screen (Commissioner Hartman)

Prices for outdoor movie screens range from \$150.00 to \$15,000.00. Commissioner Hartman selected a screen, which he presented to the Commissioners. The proposed screen is rear-view screen with heavy-duty, rigid legs that can be adjusted to up to 12' in height. The screen may be stored in a box.

Motion made by Commissioner Cicchese, seconded by Commissioner Ventresca, to approve the purchase of a movie screen, as presented by Commissioner Hartman. Discussion: None. Voice vote, 5-0. Motion carried.

i. 2017 Summer Concerts

Discussion ensued regarding the possible dates, number of concerts, and the possibility of holding an all-day music festival type event for next year's events. Commissioner Hartman felt and Commissioner Ventresca agreed that the Commission should place all of their efforts into one concert for the time being. The Commission agreed to hold the Summer Concert on July 22, 2016 and/or August 5, 2016. Director Bushway will keep the Commission updated on the entertainment for the Concert(s).

10. New Business

a. Youth Service shed

Though the integrity of the shed would be compromised with each move, it was noted that the shed can be moved, if needed. The Commission raised no concerns regarding the location of the shed.

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11. Communications – *none*

12. Remarks from the Public – *none*

13. Remarks from the Commissioners

Commissioner Cicchese relayed to Commissioner Ventresca that her e-mail reply regarding the basketball program was not meant to be negative.

Commissioner Ventresca stated her appreciation to Commissioner Cicchese. She felt that the biggest downfall of the Commission is its lack of communication and felt that they have a tremendous opportunity to do great things for the Town and the resignation of members of the Commission would have a tremendous negative impact. She felt that they have all volunteered to serve on the Commission and should aim to place their personal differences aside and realize that they are here for the betterment of the Town. She is heartbroken that one of their most active members will be resigning from the Commission. She is hopeful that the Commission will be able to come together and make it work.

Commissioner delaCruz thanked Director Bushway for his help with installing the scarecrows, which gets better every year, and appreciates all who help with the event. 65 people have signed up for the Pumpkin Decorating event this weekend. She requested that Ukleja's Tree Farm, Quaker Hill, be somehow compensated for their generous donation of pumpkins. She is currently in possession of 50 canvas bags from the Basketball Hall of Fame that she would like to donate to the children of the basketball program. Concerned that there may not be enough bags for all of the children, Director Bushway has suggested distributing them to the volunteer coaches who can, then, distribute them to the children. It has come to her attention that a grievance was issued by a parent to the Montville Youth Football League. It was confirmed that the League is a self-sustaining organization and the Parks & Recreation Department has no jurisdiction over the matter. She added that, after 29 years of serving on the Commission, she is debating as to whether to resign from the Commission. Though she is passionate about her role on the Commission and they have worked hard to build the Commission with some very nice programs, she felt personally attacked and is no longer enjoying serving on the Commission. She is disappointed that a couple of people should ruin something she truly enjoyed.

Commissioner Hartman thanked everyone for coming and stated that the Commission is his first real involvement with the local government. As a member of the Navy, he likes that they are all allowed to have and voice their opinions and feels that, though they might have their disagreements, they do have the ability to work together, adding that the programs they have instituted since he was appointed to the Commission have been "awesome". He emphasized that they are here for the community and that when they work together, they do great things for the community. He implored those who are pondering leaving to remain on

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the Commission as everyone brings a unique element to the table and losing a piece of that would be terrible.

Commissioner Berardy, who has served on the Commission the longest, agreed that the Commission has accomplished many things and felt that the Commission has a way of coming together. Talking and arguing about various issues is a positive activity and encouraged everyone to remain strong.

14. Remarks from Town Council Liaison Laura Tanner

Councilor Tanner stated that she is saddened to hear that Commissioners are unhappy and thinking about resigning as it is one of her favorite Commissions. The Board of Education and Parks & Recreation are two aspects of the Town incoming residents look for when deciding where to reside. She is proud of the programs and events the Commission has hosted and hopes that those thinking about leaving will not do so. Nevertheless, she would respect their decision. She felt that Commissioner delaCruz, who has hosted a number of successful events and presented many creative ideas, is a true asset to the Commission.

She reported that the Police Department is now at full capacity as two (2) officers have graduated from the Academy and are now in field training. As such, the possibility of requesting that the officers monitor the Dog Park or lock the gates to Camp Oakdale at 11:00 p.m. might be feasible and she will speak with the Lieutenant.

She commended the Commission on ordering the stage and movie screen and encouraged them to work on the rental policy.

She hopes the Commission will stay together and pull through their difficulties.

15. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Cicchese, seconded by Commissioner Berardy, to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. Voice vote, 5-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Agnes Miyuki, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville

AN AUDIO RECORD OF THE MEETING IS ON FILE IN THE MONTVILLE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE.