

Town of Montville Parks & Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes – October 18, 2017
6:30 p.m. – Montville Town Hall – Town Council Chambers

1. Call to Order
Acting Chairperson Karen Perkins called the meeting to order at 6:33: p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
All stood and pledged the flag.
3. Roll Call
Commissioners present were Joseph Berardy, Matt Beaupre, Danielle Butzgy, Dawn Penman, and Karen Perkins. Also present was Parks & Recreation Director Peter Bushway. Commissioners Rachel Belardo, Jennifer Hajj, Ryan Hartman, and Kristen Ventresca were absent.
4. Adjustments to the Agenda
Motion made by Commissioner Penman; seconded by Commissioner Butzgy to remove agenda Item 10.f, Montville Road Race (Montville Rotary) and replace it with Future Events & Programs. Discussion, none. Voice Vote, 5-0; all in favor. Motion carried
5. Remarks from the Public regarding items on the agenda with a three-minute limit
Acting Chairperson Perkins asked three (3) times for remarks. There were none.
6. To Consider and Act on a Motion to Approve:
 - a. The Regular Meeting Minutes of September 20, 2017.
Motion made by Commissioner Beaupre; seconded by Commissioner Penman to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 20, 2017. Discussion: none. Voice Vote, 5-0; all in favor. Motion carried.
7. Director's Report for September 2017 (Agenda correction noted: 'October' 2017.)
Director Bushway responded to Commissioners' questions and comments regarding his report. Commissioner Penman stated she was not able to volunteer for the Trick or Trunk event but Commissioners Berardy and Butzgy confirmed their commitment to volunteer as did Resident Mary Hellman of 58 Oakdale Road, a member of the public. Director Bushway spoke to the time table for the event stating that trunks would arrive between 3:30 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. and two volunteers would be needed at that time to collect candy and other items. He also said the event would begin at 6:00 p.m. when kids could help at the Parks & Recreation booth. M. Hellman confirmed with Director Bushway that he would sign off on the kids who would be doing community service at the booth. Acting Chairman Perkins questioned why someone was paid to collect candy at the Stop & Shop when commissioners could have volunteered and also asked who paid the person. Director Bushway responded payment was made from the General Fund- Part-Time Staff line item.

Acting Chairman Perkins then inquired about the status of band procurement for the 2018 Carnival and the cost for the same which seemed thus far to be more that was paid for this past year. She also inquired if quotes were sought. Director Bushway commented on the reluctance of bands to commit. Further comments were made on the cost for a live 40-foot Christmas tree (\$40,000) versus a cut 30-foot tree (\$3,000). Commissioner Butzgy inquired if there were tree farmers in Town and suggested that the same be included Newsletter and on the Facebook page.

Motion by Commissioner Penman; seconded by Commissioner Butzgy to approve the October Director’s Report. Discussion: none. Voice Vote, 5-0; all in favor. Motion carried.

8. P & R Newsletter for October 2017

Acting Chairman Perkins noted that copies of the Newsletter were not submitted beforehand to the Commission. She also commented about the commissioners who were now using Commission related email addresses with the exception of Commissioners Berardy and Ventresca. These email addresses will be updated on the Newsletter. Acting Chairman Perkins also asked about the basketball content of the Newsletter and its similarity to the previous month’s and suggested that “something new” be added monthly to generate interest. Director Bushway stated the email addresses would be added to the end of the Newsletter in addition to a request for a Christmas tree. Commissioner Beaupre noted a name correction for the “Kiks” not “Kicks” Dance Center concerning the Holiday Parade for which Acting Chair Perkins and Commissioner Butzgy agreed to serve as judges. The judges will meet at the old Town Hall at 4:00 p.m. prior to the parade.

9. Reports from Finance

Director Bushway reported that Mayor McDaniel had issued a spending and hiring freeze and that all purchase orders must be submitted to the Mayor’s office. A list of Capital Improvement items were distributed to the Commission by Director Bushway for review.

10. Unfinished Business

a. Community Center Building Committee Update

Commissioner Butzgy asked whether the Committee still existed. Acting Chairman Perkins said she would look into it.

b. Dog Park Committee Update

Commissioner Beaupre reported a Committee was held last month but there was not a quorum present. Director Bushway reported the fence that is still under construction and the rock clearing project. Responding to a question by Commissioner Butzgy, Commissioner Beaupre there would be a double-gate system large and small dogs. He also reported that he would check on the following: 1) the Town ordinance about unleashed dogs in an open space; 2) an organization to maintain the park whether it be a separate committee, Parks & Recreation, funds to upgrade/repair the park; 3) and an estimated

spring opening date. Commissioners Butzgy and Penman suggested seeking out volunteers and veterans, respectively. *This agenda item was tabled until the grand opening.*

c. Remaining Events for 2017

Director Bushway reported that a full recycling container of candy was collected at Stop & Shop and another such event would be held on Saturday and Sunday, October 21-22. Also, a pumpkin decorating event will be held at the Community Center on Sunday, October 22nd from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Community services workers will be present dressed in costume. Commissioner Butzgy suggested seeking volunteers from the high school through the Counseling Department and that it be included in the Newsletter. Acting Chair Perkins asked about the Holiday Lights that Director Bushway said was sponsored by the Rotary.

d. 2018 Summer Concerts

Director Bushway reported that two (2) bands, Derek and the Funbags and Sugar, had not committed for the 2018 concerts nor had a Saturday date for the event been pinpointed. He did assure that the bands were all booked by February last year.

e. 2018 Carnival

Acting Chairman Perkins stated that a Carnival Committee would be established and meet at 5:30 p.m. prior to the regular meeting. The meetings will begin in November and would be for commissioners only with all invited.

f. Future Events & Programs

Commissioner Beaupre reported that he had been approached about discussion conducted at the last meeting concerning athletic tryouts, specifically stacking and car pools. He spoke about his experience as a soccer coach and suggested that kids be sorted manually and evenly with independent evaluation and number system for choosing players. Acting Chairman inquired of Director Bushway about his conversation with a coach from last year that she said was premature since the process was still under advisement by the Committee. She proposed a draft process as suggested by Town Council Chairman Jaskiewicz at last month's meeting. Commissioner Butzgy concurred with Commissioner Beaupre's idea that the process should be about "picking kids to teach basketball" not about their proficiency in the sport. Resident Hellman concurred that the Parks & Recreation is not about competitiveness but instead is designed to development the players' skills as they get older so they are better prepared. Also discussed was at what grade level competitiveness is introduced.

11. New Business

a. Consideration and action on a motion to approve of 2018 Meeting Schedule and file with Town Clerk by January 31, 2018.

Motion by Commissioner Butzgy; seconded by Commissioner Penman to approve the 2018 Meeting Schedule and file it with Town Clerk by January 31, 2018. Discussion: Commissioner Butzgy suggested that the May meeting not be held at Camp Oakdale

given the time needed to prepare for the carnival. A tour of Camp Oakdale may be scheduled as a special meeting. Voice Vote, 5-0; all in favor. Motion carried.

b. Tennis Court Remodel

This item that was renamed will be moved back to Unfinished Business.

c. Consideration and action on a motion to revise bylaws to state no business conducted after 11:00 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Beaupre; seconded by Commissioner Penman, to revise the Commission bylaws to state no business will be conducted after 11:00 p.m. Discussion, none. Voice Vote, 5-0; all in favor. Motion carried.

d. Consideration and action on a motion to approve a policy for athletic tryouts.

Motion by Commission Penman; seconded by Commissioner Beaupre, on a motion to approve a policy for athletic tryouts. Discussion: Commissioner Butzgy stated there are two options to consider, a draft or independent evaluation. Commissioner Beaupre said the policy used in the past was coaches evaluated players and went into a separate room for discussion with Director Bushway in attendance. Director Bushway said that the tryouts are one-hour long for boys and girls on three consecutive days, dependent upon grade level—grades 3-4, grades 5-6, grades 7-9-- from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Tryouts this year are November 14, 16, 17. Players will be listed on a sheet and identified by a number and more evaluators will be needed, per Commissioner Beaupre. Children who come after the tryouts will also be assigned a number. Coaches will be given a list of players by number; Director Bushway will have a list with the players' names. Coaches and assistant coaches will be chosen prior to tryouts. Independent evaluators will score the players and Director Bushway will sort the teams based on the evaluations. Voice vote, 5-0; all in favor. Motion carried.

12. Communications

Director Bushway distributed information about the budget and preparation for the next fiscal year. He said the budget is normally done by the Commission in January. He asked the Commission to review the Capital Improvement Plan for changes. Acting Chair Perkins suggested that the list be prioritized. Discussion followed about enlarging and adding new equipment to the Fair Oaks playground

13. Remarks from the Public

Acting Chairperson Perkins asked three times for remarks. There were none.

14. Remarks from Town Council Liaison -- None

15. Remarks from Parks & Recreation Director Peter Bushway -- None

16. Remarks from the Commissioners

Commissioner Penman stated she may miss the next meeting due to surgery. Commissioner Butzgy asked Director Bushway for a 12-month rolling calendar of events that he agreed to email to the Commissioners. Acting Chair Perkins wished Commissioner Penman well and the MHS soccer team well and added that the Commission was accomplishing a lot.

17. Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Beaupre; seconded by Commissioner Penman to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m. Discussion, none. Voice Vote, 8-0, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Gloria J. Gathers

Recording Secretary, Town of Montville

AN AUDIO RECORDING IS AVAILABLE ON THE TOWN WEBSITE.