Sherman Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes of Special Meeting
June 25, 2020

Present:
Fran Frattini - Chairman
Stan Greenbaum (by phone)
Kris Fazzone
John Wrenn-Director
T.J. Fazzone
Rachel Booth
Denise DePalma (by phone until arrival at 6:27)

Absent:
Karen Kellett

Guests:  Hannah Jellen, Don Lowe, and Nic Marsicano

Call to order:
Chairman Fran Frattini called the June 25, 2020 Special Meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Review of Applications and Vote for new Park Maintainer:
There was a discussion about the number of applications received for the new Park Maintainer position. In addition, guest Nic Marsicano requested more detail about the position and expressed an interest in applying. The Commission explained the position including some of the duties and flexibility in schedule that may include some weekend hours. It was noted that the season for the part-time position would be approximately mid-April until mid-November. Mr. Marsicano was given an application to complete and was asked to turn it in to the Park and Recreation office as soon as possible. It was the consensus of the Commission to table the review of applications and a decision on hiring recommendation until the next Park and Recreation Commission meeting.
Review of Facilities Application for Proposed Event at Volunteer Park on July 12, 2020:

There was a discussion about the application for use of Volunteer Park for a proposed event in support of solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement. Guest Hannah Jellen, one of the organizers of the event, described how she believed the event would be run: a crowd of less than 100, including a work crew; a line-up of prearranged speakers; a method for invite-only attendance.

The Commission asked Ms. Jellen for details of the logistics of the proposed event including parking, traffic, garbage removal, social distancing and masks, police presence, duration of event, porta-pot, registration table, social media, promotional materials, crowd control and possible agitators.

There was a discussion. Don Lowe offered his help at the event at the entrance to try and help keep track of the number of attendees. Mr. Lowe also suggested other individuals or groups that might be able to be part of the support staff. Issues of entrance and egress to Volunteer Park were discussed, as well as the possibility of exceeding the 100-person limit. It was noted that the maximum allowed for outdoor gatherings may change between now and the event. Ms. Jellen noted that the Sherman organizers have the support of the New Fairfield group.

It was the consensus of the Commission that more information was needed before a vote could be taken on approval of the application. It was suggested that the Commission compile a list of questions to send to Ms. Jellen and then reconvene at another special meeting to review additional information and vote on the application. Ms. Jellen expressed a desire to have a decision rendered quickly so the organizers can start to book the speakers. It was noted that the answers to the questions could formulate a help set of guidelines for the organizers. There was a discussion, including outcome of similar area events, protection of town property, and a Black Lives Matter event planned in New Fairfield for this weekend. It was suggested that it would be helpful to see how the New Fairfield event turned out. The Commission requested a timeline for the event as well as an action plan if things did not go according to plan. Possible need for a first aide station was discussed, considering the heat at a summer midday event.

Don Lowe left at 6:45pm.

It was decided that there would be another Special Meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission on Monday, June 29, 2020 at 6:30pm to be held in Charter Hall at the
Firehouse. The agenda will be the same with two items, continuing the review of applications for the new Park Maintainer and the application for a proposed event at Volunteer Park.

Hannah Jellen left at 6:49pm

There was a discussion about the lack of a power source at Volunteer Park, insurance and liability, set-up and clean-up time, lack of garbage pails at the park and the advantages of a 2-hour event.

Stan Greenbaum left at 7:01pm.

Rachel Booth volunteered to compile a list of all the Commissioners’ questions to send to Hannah Jellen. Ms. Booth stated that she would start a list based on discussions at this meeting and send to all Commissioners within a day or so. She would then forward a complete list to Ms. Jellen so that answers would be available by the June 29, 2020 Special Meeting.

Kris Fazzone made a motion to adjourn the June 25, 2020 Park and Recreation Special meeting. The motion was seconded by T.J. Fazzone and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Kellett
Park and Recreation Secretary

Mary Jo Dix
Recording Secretary

The next regular meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission is Monday, July 13, 2020

These minutes are not considered official until they have been approved at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission