Sherman Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
March 8, 2021
via Zoom

Present:
Fran Frattini-Chairman
Stan Greenbaum
John Wrenn-Director
Karen Kellett
Rachel Booth
T.J. Fazzone
Kris Fazzone

Absent:
Bill Butts

Guests: Steve Stott, Jody Bayer and Al Giabetta of the Sherman Players,
Amanda O’Neil of the SPTO

Call to order:
Chairman Fran Frattini called the March 8, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Sherman Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:17pm.

Pavilion and Facilities Applications:
Steve Stott, head of the Sherman Players, described a request his organization was making for the use of the Pavilion at the Town Park for a series of concerts this summer. He noted the concerts would be of the pop/rock/Broadway/cabaret genres. The dates requested were all Saturday evenings; May 22, June 19, July 17 and August 14. There was a discussion including timing, electrical needs, parking, social distancing, hours for set-up, the performance and then clean-up and insurance requirements. Fran Frattini noted that the closing time at the park is 8pm so there should be nothing loud happening after 8:30pm and clean up should be completed by 9:30 at the latest. The subject of entrance fees was discussed and Mr. Stott stated that the intent was for the concerts to be fundraisers for the Sherman Players so they would be asking for donations, noting that the Sherman Players is a 501c-3. Overflow parking at Veterans Field was discussed, as well as who would be directing traffic. Crowd size and creating “pods” on the lawn were discussed. Mr. Stott will
fill out all the appropriate paperwork with John Wrenn during Park and Recreation office hours.

Stan Greenbaum made a motion to accept the Sherman Players proposal for use of the Town Park Pavilion for 4 concerts on May 22, June 19, July 17 and August 14 of 2021 and for the fee to be waived due to the 501c-3 charitable organization designation. Rachel Booth seconded and the motion was passed with all in favor.

Amanda O’Neil of the SPTO requested the use of Veterans Field for an all-day special event that will be for people of all ages to enjoy. Events such as Color Runs, live music, Build-Your-Own-Boat Regatta, food trucks and local business involvement were discussed. Parking, social distancing, signage both before the event and during the event, overflow parking and possible short-term road closure for the races were also discussed.

Kris Fazzone made a motion to accept the request for use of Veterans Field for the SPTO’s special event on Saturday, May 22 with a rain date of Sunday, May 23. Rachel Booth seconded and the motion was voted with all in favor.

Minutes from February 8, 2021 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission Meeting:
A motion to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2021 Sherman Park and Recreation Commission was made by T.J. Fazzone, seconded by Stan Greenbaum and voted with all in favor.

Public Comment:
There was no public comment.

Correspondence:
Fran Frattini described a response that she had received from FirstLight after sending them a note on behalf of the Conservation Commission regarding a program for removal of invasive species at Veterans Field. The response included details about the new process that requires a simple “limited activity” application form and a required fee of $150.00 plus a one time permit administrative fee of $350.00. Mrs. Frattini noted that the Conservation Commission had the funds to pay the fees but that she would fill out and submit the necessary forms.

Karen Kellett had received an inquiry about when the kayak rack rentals would begin. John Wrenn noted that registration for kayak and rowboat rack rentals would begin the 3rd or 4th Saturday in April; both fees are $40.00 for the season.

Maintenance and Repairs/Facilities Reports:
  a. John Wrenn reported that all facilities are in good shape and there are no major problems currently.
  b. Kris Fazzone reported that he will be looking at the Upper Veterans Soccer Field renovation project with Tim Beatty as soon as the snow melts. The plan is to assess the project, take measurements and develop specifications ready for the bidding process. The hope is that the project can be completed by early summer, the field can rest for a few months and be ready for play in the early fall. There was a discussion including drainage, resurfacing, increase in size to existing field and subsequent adjustment to the path of the track.
  c. Mr. Wrenn noted that the level of the lake was very low and that there was a significant amount of debris, such as logs, that need to be cleaned up before the water level is raised. Mr. Wrenn will look into getting it done.
New Business/Old Business:

1. There has been no Dog Park report.
2. There was a discussion about the position of maintenance person for Park and Recreation at the budget hearings. The Park and Recreation Department was asked to do without this position. There was a discussion.
3. Fran Frattini updated the Commission on the progress with Walker Butts’ Eagle Scout project. Mrs. Frattini had contacted FirstLight when she applied for the Veterans Field project and is awaiting their response.
4. There was a discussion about the recent budget hearings, including the large increases necessary due to the increase in minimum wage. It was also noted that following Covid-19 protocols when offering programs in times of pandemic added to the increased cost of a program. The removal of a maintenance person in the 2021-2022 budget made the bottom line more agreeable. It was noted that the position will be discussed again during next year’s budget preparation.
5. There was a discussion about possible upgrades to the pavilion at the Town Park, including more electrical outlets, plexiglass shields and potential use of stimulus funds.
6. There was a review of last month’s discussion about possible partnering with the JCC to offer more programs to the community. The space offered at the JCC along with some possible programs for adults and families were discussed. Rachel Booth volunteered to spearhead an effort to connect with JCC personnel, arrange for a tour of the JCC as well as continue the discussion about collaborating with Park and Recreation.
7. Online registration was discussed, including some software options. Stan Greenbaum volunteered to look into some software options as well as possible PPE grants.
8. Kris Fazzone made a motion to approve the application for use of the Town Park pavilion and beach from the Sherman Congregational Church for their Sunrise Easter Service. Karen Kellett seconded and the motion was voted with all in favor.

Director’s Report:

a. Mr. Wrenn shared the checking account information with the Commission. There was very little activity and there is a reasonable balance in the account.

b. Mr. Wrenn described Mary Jo Dix’s proposal for a modified version of the department’s traditional Egg Hunt that will be called “The Hybrid Hop”. The event is to be held on Saturday, April 3 and will take place at the Town Park as it always has. However, families with names starting with the letters A-K are invited to come at 12:00pm. Families with names beginning with the letters L-Z are invited to come at 12:45. This is a rain or shine event. No rain date and no option to move indoors. Masks requested for all aged 2 and up and social distancing will be encouraged. The event is for children of pre-school age through fifth grade. “Bunny in the Background” photo opportunities will follow each session. Children should bring their own baskets.

c. ASP continues to do well, with few more new families using the service.

d. Mr. Wrenn reported that all the boat slips have been rented and that there are over a dozen individuals on the waiting list. It was noted that over the years the size of the boats, primarily the width, has become problematic given the width of the existing slips. It was further noted that when the floating section was updated one
slip was eliminated in order to accommodate larger boats. It was also noted that if further reducing of the number of slips is necessary to accommodate the increasing size of boats needing slips, then a price increase would have to be considered. The possibilities of the need for a lottery next year as well as rejection of incomplete boat slip applications were discussed.

Kris Fazzone made a motion to adjourn the March 8, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Sherman Park and Recreation Commission. The motion was seconded by Stan Greenbaum and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18pm.

Respectfully submitted,

T.J. Fazzone  
Park and Recreation Secretary

Mary Jo Dix  
Recording Secretary

The next Park and Recreation Commission meeting will be April 12, 2021.

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