

September 16, 2009

To: Bob King, Chairman, Mt. Airy Board of P&R  
From: Patrick Ronan, Secretary

Subject: **MINUTES OF JULY 16, 2009 MEETING OF THE MT. AIRY BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION HELD AT MT. AIRY HALL.**

Attendance: Gary Nelson, Bob King, Patty Williamson, Pat Ronan, Steve Adams, Drew Heck, Tucker Lazarus, Larry Hushour

Staff: Mary VanMetre

Press: Michelle Cook (Mt. Airy Messenger)

Community: Chris Flaherty, Joe Bonifant, Daniel Poole, Roslin Buckley, Barbara Buckley, Bill Buckley, David Blais, Joshua Marcelino, Tevin Young.

-Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

--The minutes for the June meeting as submitted were approved.

**Chase Bonifant**, a Life Scout, presented his plan to build benches by the basketball court on the access Road to East-West Park. The Board requested that he come back next month with a detailed plan after speaking to his Scout Master and Steve Mullinix.

### **Camp Night Discussion**

The itinerary on the Camp Night Flyer was approved, after the astronomy item was removed.

The Registration Deadline was set at August 3.

More porta-potties were approved as was a hand wash station.

Larry Hushour was to order more hot dog and sodas and Bob King would pick them up.

All other particulars were worked out.

We would attempt to advertise on the town marquees.

It was agreed not to pay \$300 for the Gazette advertisement.

### **Renewal of Appointments to Board of Parks and Recreation**

Tucker Lazarus, Drew Heck and Pat Ronan all agreed to accept nominations for renewal of their appointments to the Board, as their terms were each expiring next month.

### **Skate Park Discussion**

There was open discussion with community members.

Chris Flaherty thought that the fees were too high and suggested a \$2 daily fee for town residents and a \$3 daily fee for others. He also disagreed with the park being unsupervised. He also wanted to keep it open in Winter, but cutting back the hours for the Winter months.

Tevin Young (a minor) was strongly in favor of supervision for the park as he had experienced problems at the unattended skate park in Westminster.

Bill and Barbara Buckley, parents of skaters, thought the helmet issue was very important and having supervision would make sure the skaters were wearing helmets. They thought the fees may be a bit high, but were willing to accept the fees to keep an attendant at the park.

Mary Van Metre suggested a punch card option to pay for a seasonal pass by accumulating daily admissions.

### **Gary Nelson Report on Skate Park**

Mr. Nelson went over the background and reasons for our decision to put rates where they are for 2010, but to keep the attendants.

He still wants more demographic information on who uses the park, when it is used, etc. He will explore the punch card idea, as well as a potentially lower rate for younger skaters.

### **Gary Nelson Report**

The Town Council is still trying to fill its vacant position.

The final list for candidates for the position of Recreation Coordinator should be finalized tomorrow. Any Board member who can attend the interviews is welcome.

The Town is still trying to get property owners' permission for a right of way for rails to trails. For movie night licenses, he handed out a catalog from Swank Pictures with movies they provide licenses for. Pat Ronan explained that all studios work with similar contractors in terms of providing movie licenses for public showings.

There will be a production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on August 8, 2009 at Wildwood Park.

### **Beautification Commission Report from Patty Williamson**

The paved walkway from the Butterfly Garden to Mount Airy Daycare Center has been completed.

They are looking to get a gazebo at Vestpocket Park

There is about \$200,000 available from Planning and Zoning for trees in lieu of open space from developers.

The town is applying for a grant to build a restroom at Watkins Park.

Larry Hushour asked that the issue of running water being brought to the parks be put on next months' Agenda.

The Town has a grant from the State Department of Natural Resources for pavilion repair at Watkins Park. The design is near complete.

The meeting was then adjourned at 9:28 p.m.