

PARKS and RECREATION COMMISSION

March 2, 2017

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Al Nace

Nancy Mills

Ellen Venditti

Ron Woods

Maureen Byrd-Blue

Kevin Gilfeather, Superintendent & Secretary

A motion was made by Commissioner Venditti, second by Commissioner Nace, to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the February meeting and accept them as written, motion carried, (4-0).

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

- 24, 5-6 year old youth completed participation in the Annual Youth Basketball Program Clinic here at the AMNC. The program which was 5 weeks in length, taught the youth the fundamentals of passing, shooting, dribbling, rebounding, and having fun. On the last day of the program, each participant was introduced to come forward and receive a certificate that they presented to the parents. Thanks to Recreation Leader, Courtney Carroll and Environmental Educator, KC Keegan-Twombly for their assistance with the Superintendent, in providing the program
- The Maintenance Staff was busy in Academy Green, Block, Cornell, Hutton & Loughran Parks cleaning up fallen trees, and repairing damaged fences and structures related to the recent wind storms
- Summer Program registration would be beginning, online, www.kingstonparksandrec.org or at the Main Office on Monday, March 13th. Summer activities begin the week of June 26th

Commissioners Mills, Byrd-Blue and Venditti reported on the events that took place at the RNC for Black History Month last month indicating that showing of the DVD – The Lost Rondout, was an excellent piece of history for the area and of Kingston, extremely educational. Another evening, 2, young recently hired members of the Kingston Police Dept, came and spoke about their journey from a young age to completing and graduating from the Police Academy to becoming hired by the City. Also Odell Winfield shared with those present the information about the recent opening of the African Roots Center down in the Rondout area, to further offer a piece of history of the area. The last evening of the week, was the Annual Family Carnival Night, which had snow cones, face painting, cotton candy, games and crafts for the kids, and plenty of food for everyone each of the evenings. Our youth from the EHC after-school program were

transported to the event by our Citibus Dept, combined with the youth from the RNC, over 90 kids enjoyed the Carnival atmosphere. Thanks to Recreation Leader, Rob Dassie; the after-school staff at the RNC, and Sonnie Dassie (Rob's wife) for all they did to make for such an enriching and enjoyable experience for all who attended!

The Commission reviewed the proposed residential development project, #394-400 & #400 on Foxhall Avenue, and on a vote by Commissioner Nace, second by Commissioner Venditti, to ask the Planning Board to charge the developer the Rec Fee of \$2000/unit for a total of \$6000 to advance the building project. On a vote of (5-0), the Commission signed the recommendation, and will forward the recommendation on to the Planning Board to be discussed at the April Planning Board meeting.

Themes for the 49th Annual Children's Day Parade, scheduled for Friday, July 7th were discussed, with a few ideas to be considered, including: Independence Day, Stars & Stripes, Kingston's History and Landmarks. It was suggested that the youth who participate in our After-School Programs at the EHC & RNC be given the opportunity to present ideas. Another idea was to ask our followers on the Kingston Parks & Recreation Facebook to share their ideas for a fun theme to consider.

Commissioner Byrd-Blue asked the question about the increase in the Adult Softball League sponsor fee. The Commission was informed that the Softball League fee was seeing the first increase since 2010, and that all Adult Sport League fees, along with most youth program fees and pavilion rental charges were being increased, modestly for 2017. No one program was being targeted. As program charges have been able to remain steady, the cost to provide these very affordable programs, activities and leagues have not remained as level to the City of the Department.

Commissioner Byrd-Blue motioned for adjournment, second by Commissioner Woods, motion carried, (5-0). The next Commission meeting, will be held on **Thursday, April 6, 2017, 5p at the Rondout Neighborhood Center.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Gilfeather

