

**Recreation Commission**  
**Tuesday, January 19, 2016**  
**7:00pm**

A meeting of the Recreation Commission was held Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at the Youth Center located on Pike Street. The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm. The following were in attendance:

John Faggione, Director  
Dawn Jones, Vice Chair  
Debbie Cunningham  
Brandy Figueroa  
Amanda Sexton, Youth Member

Erika Ropke Polanis  
Mike Latini  
Noleen Casey Tomasi  
Gina Fitzpatrick, Liaison

Absent: Tom Hoppey, Chairman

A motion to approve the minutes from and report from November 2015 and the End of the Year Report was made by Debbie and seconded by Erika. All those in favor:

Aye: 5                      Nay: 0                      Absent: 1                      Abstain: 1

John introduced and welcomed new Recreation Commission Member Brandy Figueroa, Gina Fitzpatrick, Recreation Liaison, and Honorable James Hendry.

**Public Comment:**

James thinks that the opening of the hiking and biking trails is a great idea and he has some ideas that would ensure that the property is utilized. James would like to see an outdoor club formed. This club could be operated as one of the many programs that the Recreation Department has to offer. James has already researched some activities and feels that the start-up cost of this club could be minimal. He would like the club to include trail hikes, possible overnight stays, and educational programs. James suggested that John advertise the program in the Summer flyer. James would like to have the outdoor club approved by the council and then arrange a date for a public brainstorming to set goals to get the program up and running successfully.

**New Business:**

John reviewed the 2016 budget. Three playgrounds will operate for 7 weeks from 9am-3pm. The Summer Program was kept intact. West End Beach will also re-open in 2016. It will run for 8 weeks and shortened hours during the day. This is good for the young employees that return each year to work for the Summer Program. John thanked the Commission for coming to the budget meetings to support the department's budget.

There is a snow tubing field trip scheduled for February 18, 2016 at Fernwood Resort in Bushkill, PA. The bus will leave at approximately 5pm and return at 9pm. The cost is \$25 per person.

The sleigh riding hill at West End has been set up. Snowboards and skis are not allowed.

John reviewed the 2016 Calendar of Events. John discussed some new events that have been added to the schedule. The new hiking trails will open on March 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> with the Snowball's Chance Fat Bike Race. DeeJay Birch will run the event. Registration will be at the Erie on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The race will be on the 19<sup>th</sup> and the awards ceremony will be at the Erie on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

The Mid- Atlantic Cup Challenge Ironman Race Triathlon- will be held June 19<sup>th</sup>. Pioneer, an organization that runs these races, contacted the City and requested to hold a race here in Port Jervis. This race will be part of a series. The Recreation Commission is concerned about seeking donations from local businesses. They feel that it may be overextending sponsorship requests when we seek sponsorship for other events. John discussed how this race compares to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Tri-State Triathlon Sprint.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Point Peter Extreme Challenge is tentatively scheduled for 10/9 or 10/16. This will be an extreme 5k- 10k with a run to the top of Point Peter. There are still plans to complete and work to be done before this race takes place.

The Longboard events will be held on June 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> and again on September 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>. This year's race will be charging \$10/participant. Proceeds will go to the City of Port Jervis.

John would like for the Recreation Commission to take a more active role as a member and participate in at least 75% of the Recreation sponsored events. John feels that this commitment will give the department a stronger look.

Erika asked if there could be a dedication of an event or park for Luann. Ideas were discussed. This year's race shirt will memorialize Luann.

John handed out a watershed map with the trails highlighted. John reviewed the borders and trails. Volunteers are needed to clear the trails. Machinery will be used to cut more trails in the spring. John is hoping to purchase 6X6 posts to set up at trail intersections to give hikers/bikers directions. The Commission discussed the possibility of dumping/littering and motorized vehicle use occurring on the trails. John is going to check with the city code about fines for these incidents. It is possible that cameras will eventually be installed. The fire department and EMS will be given maps of the trails with coordinates. It will be coordinated accordingly. John asked that the Commission return to February's meeting with ideas for what they want to allow on the trails in regards to allowing dogs and fishing. John will then submit the ideas to the Common Council.

John has had to post a help wanted ad for Megan's position as a Recreation Specialist. Megan has taken a new job and cannot give John the hours that are required. Erika suggested John share the ad with OCCC. They have a help wanted board for students. The application deadline is 2/12/16.

West End Beach will reopen in June 2016. The city would like to charge a fee for non-residents. It has not been decided if it will be a beach fee or a parking fee. John asked that the Commission

return in February with ideas that will help decide how to charge fees for the beach. The beach attendant will have to be reinstated in order to collect the fee and organize parking.

It was discussed that the fee for renting Riverside Park be raised.

**Old Business**

The Youth Basketball Program is doing well. 90 kids participate. The Cops Vs Kids game is scheduled for March 5<sup>th</sup>.

Santa's Toy Box produced 2-3 large boxes of toys that were donated to the Elks. Thank You to everyone that contributed.

John reviewed the numbers for the Youth Center attendance.

Youth Report:

None

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:52pm was made by Mike and seconded by Erika. All those in favor:

Aye: 6      Nay: 0      Absent: 1

**NEXT MEETING:  
Tuesday, February 23, 2016  
7:00pm**