Minutes of the August 13th, 2018

Winslow Park Commission Meeting

6:30 PM

@ Freeport Town Hall

As produced by Neil Lyman

Winslow Park Manager and Winslow Park Commission Secretary

In Attendance- Robin Baron, Doug Reighley, Karissa Davan, Susan Hazzard, George Connick, Kim Swett, Neil Lyman

Absent- Lucy Lloyd, Nancy Marquis

Also in Attendance were a number of members of the public and town manager Peter Joseph.

Meeting convened at 6:30

* Park Managers Report:
  + Neil Lyman reported that the new shop building was nearly complete with mainly punch list items to complete, and that park staff had started using it and setting up inside. Neil Lyman also handed out to-date park income sheets reporting gross revenue of approximately $238,000 through July. This number is down approximately $3,500 from 2017 and up from years before that.
* Chairpersons Report:
  + Karissa Davan handed out binders to commission members, Neil Lyman and Peter Joseph which herself and Susan Hazzard had put together. The binders included a large amount of pertinent park information including legal documents, park reports, regulations etc…

**Old Business:**

* Park Reservation System:
  + Neil Lyman stated that he and Robin Baron had done some research of different options for online reservations. Neil handed out a comparison of four different possible providers; Informe, Think Reservations, Reserve America and Sunrise Reservation. Neil and Robin Baron both stated that at the current time their opinion was that Think Reservations was the best of the options based on cost and service. Karissa Davan asked if things be at a point to definitively move forward by the next meeting. Robin Baron stated that it was more likely it would take at least two more meetings.
* Status of recent motion and vote concerning the seasonal campsite policy:
  + Karissa Davan introduced Peter Joseph, Town Manager, as in attendance to answer any questions about process. Mr. Joseph stated that any ordinance needs to be amended by the town council. He stated that there would be a public hearing at the town council level. He also stated that the town council may choose to send any ordinance issue to the towns’ ordinance committee for a review and recommendation. Mr. Joseph stated that there is still ordinance revision and wording work that needs to be done in this case. Karissa Davan asked if that work could be done by a smaller subcommittee. Mr. Joseph stated that it could be down by a smaller group, but that it should go back to the whole commission for approval.
  + Doug Reighley asked Mr. Joseph if another vote could be taken to rescind the previous motion. Mr. Joseph stated that it could, but it needed to be a majority vote.
  + Karissa Davan expressed concern that this was not an agenda item for this meeting.
  + George Connick referred to Robert’s Rules of Order which would not allow another vote on this issue to be taken.
  + Peter Joseph stated that Roberts Rules of Order had not been adopted in this situation and that the commission could choose to go by that or a simple majority.
  + Karissa Davan suggested that the topic be discussed further to make sure everyone’s opinions were stated before another vote.
  + Susan Hazzard stated that she felt that everyone had already stated their opinions on this specific matter.
  + **Doug Reighley made a motion to rescind the previous vote to recommend the elimation of “seasonal camping” at the park. Robin Baron seconded Doug Reighley’s motion.**
  + George Connick stated that he felt that the commission had only heard one segment of the publics opinion; that being the seasonal campers. He also stated that a vote to recind would not mean that this topic is off the table. Mr. Connick expressed concern that members of the community were upset about the long term campers at a large discount and that no other state/public parks operate in this fashion. Mr. Connick feels that the intent of the original trust was to operate like a state park. Mr. Connick also stated that this issue needs a lot of attention and work before going to the town council and that a compromise should be discussed and worked out.
  + Doug Reighley stated that his motion would get the commission back to neutral on the subject.
  + Karissa Davan stated that she doesn’t feel that the commission can return to neutral at this time.
  + Doug Reighley expressed concern that the entirety of the parks ordinance needs major revision and that the specific, contentious, issue of seasonal camping should be tabled until the rest of the ordinance is cleaned up. Doug also stated that he feels this process could take up to a year.
  + Karissa Davan asked Mr. Joseph about the process and length of ordinance revisions. Mr. Joseph stated that it all depended on the councils approach to the issue and public discussion.
  + George Connick stated that he would like to leave the original motion on the table until someone came up with an alternative. Mr. Connick stated that he felt that this is the biggest issue in 18 years to come before the commission and that he was reluctant to vote on anything without an alternative compromise.
  + **A vote was taken on a motion to rescind the original motion to recommend the elimination of “seasonal campsites”. The motion passed by a 4-2 vote in favor.**

**New Business:**

* Possibility of a park walkthrough at the park
  + Neil Lyman stated that a park walkthrough was possible, but that he would not be able to be at the September meeting. The possibility of doing the walkthrough at a different time than normal meetings are scheduled due to daylight issues was discussed. Karissa Davan asked for an e-mail list of commissioners so that communications could go out if an alternative park walkthrough time/date could be figured out.

**Other Business:** None

**Public Comment: Non Agenda**

* Robert Levy, Freeport resident, suggested that members of the commission introduce themselves. They did.
* Andre Johnston, Freeport resident, stated that he was against the elimination of the “seasonal campsites”. He also stated concern with the rules of order and procedure at the meeting. Mr. Johnston suggested that members of the board create and understand clear rules of order before making decisions.
* Jim Hughes, a Freeport resident, stated that three different park trustee attorneys have already reviewed the “seasonal campsite” question and have been fine with its continuation. Mr. Hughes questioned what problem was attempting to be solved by changing the current practice.
* Bob Kroll, a seasonal camper, questioned the commission about data and comparisons with other campgrounds. He also questioned as to who the residents were who had concerns about the current practice.
* Adam Libby, a Freeport resident, stated that he had worked at the park as a maintenance employee and that the “seasonal campers” support local businesses and are good for the park.
* Herb Taylor, a Freeport resident, suggested that the commission use microphones so that people can hear them. He also expressed concern about the lack of data associated with the recent motions and stated that he felt the town council would want to see more facts.
* Bill Ross, a Freeport resident, stated that he had been on the commission for many years and that he was concerned that at a previous meeting a member of the commission had stated that they didn’t know what was going on, but voted on a serious issue anyway. Mr. Ross stated that similar issues have come up before, included a case in the 90’s where there was a move to heavily restrict camping in the park. Mr. Ross stated that these have failed to pass.
* Robert Levi, a Freeport resident, expressed that he was disturbed by the previous meeting. He also stated that the commission was appointed, not elected.

Doug Reighley made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kim Swett; unanimously voted in favor.

Meeting Adjourned @ 7:34 PM