Minutes of the March 12th, 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 Barron, Karissa Davan, Carla Dupuis, George Connick, Nancy Marquis, Kim Swett, Susan Hazzard, Doug Reighley, Neil Lyman, Mark Standen

Absent- Lucy Lloyd.

Meeting convened at 6:30

The Minutes of the February 12th, 2018 meeting were approved

* A new commission member, Susan Hazzard, was present at the meeting and introduced herself to the group.

**Old Business:**

* Mark Standen, the parks trustee, was present at the meeting. Carla Dupuis inquired as to how his first year as trustee had gone. Mark said that there were some logistical issues with the initial change over, but nothing major. Mark informed the commission that he is currently working on the trusts taxes, and that the trusts investments are working well. Mark is still using Lev Davis as his financial advisor for the trust. The former Trustee, Bill Plouffe also used Mr. Davis. Mark informed the commission that the trust has earned approximately $77,000 in the last year, growing from $427,000 to $501,000. Carla Dupuis asked about how the trust was currently invested and Mark stated that it was pretty aggressively invested in well known stocks, but that seemed to be working well in the current market. Carla asked Mark if he was comfortable with the investments. Mark stated that it was a very long term investment and that although he really isn’t an investment guy, he is happy with its performance over recent years. He also stated that he trusts Mr. Davis as a financial advisor, but that it may be time to do a periodic review with Mr. Davis as it has not been done in a while. Mark also stated that the trust’s net income has fluctuated a lot over the previous years and that he should speak with Lev about why this is. George Connick commented that the parks operating accounts were in good shape as well. Neil added that even with larger projects going on that there were still at least two years of operating costs in savings.
* Mark Standen was asked about his take on Seasonal sites at the park. George Connick gave a little history about how the existence of said sites had been brought into question in the 80’s by the former town manager and that the trustee at that time had commented that if they were brought up in legal terms pertaining to the trust that they could be in violation.
  + Neil Lyman added that they were originally used as an early season form of income when the park needed operating capitol. George added that this capitol to get the park by each season is not currently necessary. George also questioned whether this sort of long term policy where customers take up a whole site for the entire season was in practice with the intent of the trust.
  + Robyn Barron raised the question of what the cost and issues associated with eliminating these sites would be. George Connick and Neil Lyman both felt that the cost financially would not be a huge issue. Neil was concerned about general anger from the renters about the change. Neil stated that he would like to see a firm written explanation involving all overseeing parties if changes were to be made.
  + Carla Dupuis posed the question to Mr. Standen of whether this current camping practice is in violation of the trust.
  + George Connick stated that he felt that seasonal sites restricted access to camping at the park as it takes up about a third of the sites and that this could be a violation of the trust.
  + Susan Hazzard asked why most of the seasonal sites are in the field near the water which is prime camping territory. Neil Lyman replied that the current and long term practice has been that any site not directly on the water ( sites 1-23) can currently be a seasonal site.
  + Mark stated that there could be a legal issue with the existence of the discounted full year sites. He said that he can’t guarantee a definitive answer due to the broadness of the trust documents.
  + Susan Hazzard suggested a possible every year lottery rather than the current system that allows one family to hold onto a site as long as they want. She suggested this could open up access to more families.
  + George Connick suggested that it may be wise to eliminate them all together for now and start with a clean slate.
  + Karissa Davan stated that a new, simpler reservation system could bring in more campers to fill any void if the seasonal sites were to be eliminated.
  + Carla Dupuis asked if Mark needed to make a ruling on the issue in order for the Commission to vote on such an issue. Mark stated that he thought of his role in such matters as more of a legal advisor.
  + Doug Reighley suggested taking return campers reservations earlier as to give them better chances of getting their preference to ease such a change. Neil Lyman said that this could prove to have some logistical issues as a large percentage of the parks campers come back year after year.
  + Mark asked if there might be legal action against the park if the practice were to change. Neil stated that seasonal campers were required to sign a document that stated they understood the seasonal campsite policy. This policy clearly states that the commission can change the policy any time they feel it necessary.
  + Carla Dupuis stated that she also felt it may be a good idea to start with a clean slate.
  + George suggested that a few commission members draft a document with the commission’s concerns about the current seasonal site practice.
  + Mark Standen asked if the commission would like him to review the trust documents and get them a formal response as to his opinion. The commission stated that they would.
  + George Connick would like to make sure that the trustee and the commission are on the same page before moving ahead.
* Concerning the online reservation system possibility through INFORME Neil stated that after review by INFORME officials the cost per night to the camper would be $3.50 rather than $1.95.
  + Robyn Barron stated that he would rather see a per reservation fee than a per night fee, but suggested we talk with them more about a flat upfront fee. He feels that the cost increase is probably more to pay for a one time set up fee and that is doesn’t make sense to have to pay that reservation after reservation, year after year.
  + Neil will discuss these issues with INFORME.

**New Business:**

**Other Business:**

* Karrisa Davan suggested the commission look into more state and federal grants as there were many that could work for the park. Neil Lyman said he would review the states site.

**Public Comment:**

Meeting Adjourned @ 7:46 PM