**FINAL MINUTES**

**Salem Parks and Recreation Commission**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Date and Time: Tuesday, July 16, 2019 at 6:48 P.M.**

**Meeting Location: Dining Room, 401 Bridge St.**

**Members Present: Chris Burke, James Shea,**

**Debbie Amaral**

**Absent Amy Everitt, Bob Callahan**

**Also Present: Patricia O’Brien**

**Clerk: Kathleen Fitzgerald**

**Meeting Called to Order**

Debbie Amaral calls the meeting to order at 6:48 P.M.

**Old Business**

Approval of Minutes of the meeting on June 18, 2019. James Shea moves to approve, seconded by Chris Burke, and unanimously passes.

Approval of Minutes of the Special Meeting on July 1, 2019. James Shea moves to approve, seconded by Chris Burke, and unanimously passes.

First on the Agenda:

**Comunidad Cristiana Fepau, Inc. (Unity for My City Parade), Domingo Dominguez**. Councilman At Large Dominguez introduced Pedro Febre to speak about the event. The event is to take place on the common on Saturday, August 24, 2019 from 1:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. with set up to start at 10:00 A.M. and break-down to finish by 6:30 P.M. Mr. Febre stated that the event would be pretty much the same as in past years.

James Shea asked how many years they have been doing the event and Mr. Febre advised it was their fifth year.

Debbie Amaral asked if they really expected 1,000 people and Mr. Febre stated they got close to that number last year which was the largest number they had seen.

James Shea asked Mr. Febre if he knew that the music needed to be kept down and Mr. Febre advised he did.

Debbie Amaral asked Mr. Febre if he knew that insurance was needed since there would be a bouncy house and he advised he did. Debbie Amaral also asked about a permit for food and Mr. Febre advised there would be no food trucks and no cooking.so that the area businesses would benefit.

James Shea makes a motion to approve the event, seconded by Chris Burke, and passes unanimously.

Next:

**Cameroon Catholic Community, Mark Henry Kamga** – This event is to take place at Castle Hill Park on Sunday, August 11, 2019 from 2:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. with set up at noon and breakdown by 7:30 P.M. It will be a family barbeque, music and games for kids.

Mr. Kamga stated that this was a family event and their 4th year and that they usually have between 50-100 people,

James Shea stated that they received complaints about the music last year and asked if they could direct the speakers out toward the fields. Mr. Kamga said he was surprised to hear that and yes, they would direct the speakers toward the fields.

Debbie Amaral asked if there would be amplified sound and Mr. Kamga said there would be but that they would keep the volume down.

James Shea makes a motion to approve the event, seconded by Chris Burke, and unanimously passes.

Next:

**B&S Event Management (Wild Fish Swim, Ashley Steeves)** – This is for an annual wild fish open water swim at Collins Cove on August 10, 2019 where participants can choose between one-half mile, one mile or two-mile swims. Ms. Steeves stated that the Harbor Master was involved and there would be kayakers in the water to ensure safety. Participants can register on the date of the event, but the fee is $10.00 more.

James Shea advised Ms. Steeves that there was a big project being done on Webb Street and asked that they say away from it as they did not want a lot of boats pulling in there. Trish O’Brien advised it was behind the rock area.

Debbie Amaral asked if there have been any issues with this event and Trish O’Brien advised that they have worked with the Harbor Master in the past and there have been no complaints.

There was some discussion between the Board and Ms. Steeves about amplification. It was suggested that speakers face the ocean and no amplification before 8:00 A.M. M. Steeves agreed.

James Shea makes a motion to approve the event, seconded by Chris Burke, and passes unanimously.

Next:

**Young Soldiers Sports Group, Jhonel Roberts**. No show

Next:

**Montserrat College of Art**. Postponed until the August meeting. There was some discussion by the Board about the event. Trish O’Brien suggested that the Board approve amplification and then she would work with them on the rest of the details.

James Shea suggested giving approval at the discretion of Trish O’Brien that she is happy with everything.

James Shea makes a motion in that regard, second by Chris Burke and unanimously passes.

Debbie Amaral asked if the Board should approve the Young Soldiers event. Trish O’Brien stated that they are working on the process and that they turned everything in today. She stated she would talk to them about amplified sound. They would be playing basketball and Sundays and Tuesday from 6:45 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.

James Shea asked if there would be a problem with basketball ending that late and if neighbors would be complaining about amplification. Trish O’Brien stated that she thought that they basically wanted to play music before the game started and that the Board had to approve amplification and suggested 9:00 P.M. for amplification and the lights on until 10:00 P.M.

Chris Burke asked if this was their first year. Trish O’Brien stated that they did not do this last year but have done it in the past. He then asked if this was a money-making event or a non-profit. Trish O’Brien stated that it really didn’t matter, and they were only concerned with how many were Salem residents and how many were non-residents.

Chris Burke makes a motion to approve amplification, seconded by James Shea and unanimously passes.

**Superintendent’s Report**:

Willows Meter Revenue down. James Shea stated that it appears that no one is putting money in the meters and that the police should be enforcing and issuing tickets. Trish O’Brien advised she would follow up with the Police Department. James Shea addressed Councilman Domingo to advise him that all the money from the meters goes back into the park. Councilman Domingo advised that he would speak with Councilman McCarthy to see what he could do.

Debbie Amaral asked why the Board couldn’t ask for an increase. James Shea said the meters average about $20,000.00 a year in revenue which could be doubled with an increase.

Chris Burke suggested making a motion to increase the meters amount from 25 cents per hour to 50 cents per hour.

Councilman Domingo asked if he had to go before the City Council for this change and Debbie Amaral stated that the Board was only asking for that zone to be changed. Trish O’Brien asked if she prepared a letter should she direct it to the Director of Parking. Debbie Amaral advised that the Mayor and Director of Parking should receive it and Trish O’Brien stated she would include Councilman McCarthy and Councilman Domingo also.

Chris Burke makes a motion to increase the meter amount, seconded by James Shea, and passes unanimously.

**New Business**:

Chris Burke advised that a new tree was put in at the Willows and is now damaged and that the lower branches were broken. Trish O’Brien said that she met with the new tree warden who seemed knowledgeable and very responsible and said she would give him a call. She advised that he did target a tree at Forest River which he thinks should come down. Chris Burke suggested that a red mark be put on the tree and asked if Trish O’Brien minded if he called the tree warden. Trish O’Brien said she would email Chris the contact information. Chris Burke went on the talk about the tree plan/study which he felt was vague and not helpful. He stated that they asked for very specific things to happen with the trees near the Clam Shack and nothing has happened. Trish O’Brien suggested to Chris Burke that they go down to the Willows and meet with the tree warden. She said she would text both Chris and the tree warden to pick a time to meet.

James Shea made a suggestion that there was $23,000.00 in the Salem Willows Meter Fund and that if after a meeting with the tree warden the money was needed for trees, to do it. He also stated that the concern for the trees shows how important the meters at the Willows are and how an increase would be helpful.

There was a discussion about sign boards concerning the trees and their history.

There was then a discussion about the Black Picnic. Trish O’Brien advised that Doreen Wade had been emailing and that her last email was a request for a permit to use the basketball court. Trish advised that Roy Breckenridge has his own permit, but Doreen Wade said she wanted Salem United to have use of the basketball courts. Trish then advised that Roy Breckenridge requested coming to the August meeting because he would be in the area.

Councilman Domingo asked if there was anything in writing about who could use the courts and Trish O’Brien advised that it was up the Commission and stated that Mr. Breckenridge has been running the event in the past.

Next meeting – Tuesday August 20, 2019.

A motion to adjourn is made by James Shea, seconded by Chris Burke and unanimously passes.

The meeting ended at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Fitzgerald, Clerk