



Parks and Recreation Committee
Regular Meeting
Minutes, February 5, 2018; 4:30 PM
Council Chambers

ITEM 1

CALL TO ORDER: 4:27 PM – The meeting was called to order by Chair Jeff Dobbs. Committee members present were Greg Veilleux, Tommy Parham, John Kelly, Eric Ankrom and Committee Liaison Public Works Director Chip Reeves. Others in attendance were YWCA MDI Executive Director Jackie Davidson, Island Artists Kathy Norwood, resident Amy Schwartz; Abbe Museum President Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko; Coastal Fine Art Alliance of Maine Jim Gray; Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Martha Searchfield and Events Coordinator Kelly Pai-Roos; and Bar Harbor Rotary Dean Read and Ron Wrobel.

ITEM 2

Excused Absence(s): None.

ITEM 3

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Parham moved, with second by Mr. Kelly, to approve the Agenda; motion passed (5-0).

ITEM 4

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of November 6, 2017. Mr. Kelly moved, with second by Mr. Veilleux, to approve the Minutes; motion passed (5-0).

ITEM 5

REGULAR BUSINESS

- A. Request from the YWCA MDI to Hold its Annual YWCA MDI Luminary Evening on the Village Green from 5:45 PM to 9:45 PM on Saturday, August 4, 2018, with a Rain Date of August 5, 2018 (same hours).**

Ms. Davidson represented the applicant in support of its application. The application fee and insurance liability certificate have been received. The reading of the Findings of Fact Sheet was waived for this annual event as there are no changes other than the date of the event. Mr. Veilleux thanked the applicant for taking on this historical event and keeping it alive. Chair Dobbs concurred with the sentiment.

Mr. Parham moved, with second by Mr. Ankrom, to approve the application; motion passed (5-0).

B. Request from the YWCA MDI to Hold its Annual Island Artists Spring Fair in the Park on the Village Green from 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Saturday, May 26, 2018.

Mses. Davidson, Norwood and Schwartz represented the applicant in support of its application. The application fee, insurance liability certificate and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) non-profit statement have been received. The reading of the Findings of Fact Sheet was waived for this annual event as there are no changes other than the date of the event.

Mr. Ankrom moved, with second by Mr. Kelly, to approve the application; motion passed (5-0).

C. Request from the YWCA MDI to Hold its Annual Island Artists Labor Day Fair in the Park on the Village Green from 6:00 AM on Saturday, September 1, 2018, to 6:00 PM on Sunday, September 2, 2018.

Mses. Davidson, Norwood and Schwartz represented the applicant in support of its application. The application fee, insurance liability certificate and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) non-profit statement have been received. The reading of the Findings of Fact Sheet was waived for this annual event as there are no changes other than the date of the event.

Chair Dobbs reported that he has received complaints regarding art shows on the Town park relative to competition for brick and mortar stores by event participating artists that might be wholesalers that travel to make their living off the fairs, as opposed to “homespun” crafters and artists. In addition, he referred to an incident whereby a vendor sold a product for less money at the art fair, while also having the item in a local store at higher pricing.

Ms. Schwartz explained that the YWCA guidelines for their art shows grant priority to those who are located the closest; all have Maine addresses. Most of the participants are from Hancock County. In addition, no “wholesaling” is allowed, except with limitations. She added that approximately 34 crafters participate and not many make as much as \$1,000. Labor Day is a good timeframe for this event as the crafters are available and the event is a good fund raiser for the YWCA.

Chair Dobbs stressed that no one argues that the YWCA benefits the community. He added that, with the changing make-up of this Committee, scrutiny of events is helpful. He saw the need to respond to feedback.

As a retailer, Mr. Veilleux said the sentiment of the business owners is to question the presence of the crafters during the Labor Day weekend. He said that retailers support the crafts all over Maine and would be keen on who is here and competing with local business.

Mr. Ankrom’s viewpoint is that, if there is a complaint about a vendor, it should be dealt with by the event sponsor; i.e., possibly omitting the vendor in future shows. He recommends tweaking the events as needed. Mr. Kelly agreed that complaints should be directed to the sponsor. He does not consider that the Park Use Ordinance is infringed upon by where vendors come from or what they sell. Mses. Davidson, Norwood and Schwartz requested that issues be directed to them.

Mr. Reeves explained that this Committee has the discretionary power to approve elements, to deal with complaints and sponsors, and to resolve. Complaints should be dealt with shortly after the event. He recommended that this Committee plan to have a general Ordinance conversation during

which it would discuss if the allowed Labor Day event should be handled differently in the current fashion. The Committee agreed that an Ordinance discussion would be useful.

Mr. Parham moved, with second by Mr. Veilleux, to approve the application; motion passed (5-0).

D. Request from the Abbe Museum to Hold an Indian Market on the Village Green from 7:00 AM on Saturday, May 19, 2018, to 7:00 PM on Sunday, May 20, 2018.

Ms. Catlin-Legutko represented the applicant in support of its application. The application fee, insurance liability certificate and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) non-profit statement have been received. An overview of the event was previously provided to the Committee. This inaugural Indian Market will promote 75 Wabanaki artists, representing 30 Native American tribes across the United States and North America, to provide opportunity for the artists and community. This is a family oriented event of educational demonstrations, fashion shows, the buying and selling of new groups of art forms. Anticipated overflow would be directed to the nearby Abbe Museum on Mt. Desert Street. There is no rain date; displays would be covered (without the use of stakes). The event date falls into the pattern of the national Native American art show cycle.

Mr. Veilleux appreciates the event as a cultural opportunity for the Town that will attract a diverse group of people. As well, Mr. Parham fully supports the event, and Chair Dobbs considers it a good early season use of the Village Green. Mr. Kelly noted that this event, along with the YWCA spring art show, would carry this park through two successive weekends of major events, and he expressed precaution toward the image of filling up the parks with events on weekends. Mr. Reeves suggested this aspect could be added to the upcoming broader conversation regarding park use.

Mr. Veilleux moved, with second by Mr. Parham, to approve the application; motion passed (5-0).

E. Request from Coastal Fine Arts Alliance of Maine (Sponsor of MDI Mortgage Group) to Hold the Annual Gallery on the Green 2018 from 6:00 AM, Saturday, September 15, 2018, to 6:00 PM on Sunday, September 16, 2018.

Mr. Gray represented the applicant in support of its application. The application fee, insurance liability certificate and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) non-profit statement have been received. The reading of the Findings of Fact Sheet was waived for this annual event as there are no changes other than the date of the event. Mr. Veilleux reiterated that, following suit to the previous discussion if complaints are received, the Committee would have an open dialogue with the sponsor. Mr. Gray agreed.

Mr. Veilleux moved, with second by Mr. Ankrom, to approve the application; motion passed (5-0).

F. Request from Bar Harbor (MDI) Rotary Club to Hold its Annual Pancake Breakfast and Seafood Festival 2018 on the Athletic Field from 8:00 AM on Tuesday, July 3, 2018, to 6:00 PM on Wednesday, July 4, 2018 (Rain Dates of July 4 – 5, 2018).

Messrs. Wrobel and Read represented the applicant in support of its application. The application fee and insurance liability certificate have been received. The Rotary is a national organization whose insurance policy, with a term beginning July 1, is not in force for the date of the requested event during the event application deadline submission date. The event approval would be contingent upon receipt of insurance liability coverage prior to the date of the event; the permit would so state the condition. There are no changes to this annual event, except for the dates, and there have been no complaints.

As a member of the Rotary, Mr. Parham recused himself from the vote on this item. Mr. Veilleux moved, with second by Mr. Ankrom, to approve the application; motion passed (4-0).

G. Request from the Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce to Hold its Annual Art in the Park on the Village Green from 7:00 AM on Saturday, June 16, 2018, to 6:00 PM on Sunday, June 17, 2018.

Mses. Searchfield and Pai-Roos represented the applicant in support of its application. The application fee, insurance liability certificate and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) non-profit statement have been received. The reading of the Findings of Fact Sheet was waived for this annual event as there are no changes other than the date of the event. Mr. Veilleux echoed the same point of dealing with any complaints of competition with the sponsor; Mses. Searchfield and Pai-Roos agreed.

Mr. Parham moved, with second by Mr. Kelly, to approve the application; motion passed (5-0).

H. Request from the Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce to Hold its Annual Seaside Cinema Series at Agamont Park from 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM on Wednesdays [July 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15 (Rain Date of August 22)]; and from 5:30 PM to 9:30 PM on Friday, September 7, 2018 (Acadia Night Sky Festival Viewing).

Mses. Searchfield and Pai-Roos represented the applicant in support of its application. The application fee and insurance liability certificate have been received. The reading of the Findings of Fact Sheet was waived for this annual event as there are no changes other than the dates of the event.

As a member of the steering committee for the Acadia Night Sky Festival, Mr. Kelly recused himself from the vote on this item. Mr. Parham expressed great pleasure for this event, and Mr. Veilleux said it is the epitome of a summer vacation. Mr. Parham moved, with second by Mr. Ankrom, to approve the application; motion passed (4-0).

I. Request from the Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce to Hold its Annual Acadia Night Sky Festival Solar View on the Village Green from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM on Friday, September 7, 2018.

Mses. Searchfield and Pai-Roos represented the applicant in support of its application. The application fee and insurance liability certificate have been received. The reading of the Findings

of Fact Sheet was waived for this annual event as there are no changes other than the dates of the event.

As a member of the steering committee for the Acadia Night Sky Festival, Mr. Kelly recused himself from the vote on this item. Mr. Veilleux moved, with second by Mr. Ankrom, to approve the application; motion passed (4-0).

J. Request from the Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce to Hold its Annual Village Holidays on the Village Green from 3:30 PM to 6:00 PM on Friday, December 7, 2018.

Mses. Searchfield and Pai-Roos represented the applicant in support of its application. The application fee and insurance liability certificate have been received. The reading of the Findings of Fact Sheet was waived for this annual event as there are no changes other than the dates of the event.

Mr. Kelly moved, with second by Mr. Parham, to approve the application; motion passed (5-0).

K. Other Discussion.

- Holiday Decorations: The Chamber of Commerce has been the entity to decorate the Village Green and Town-owned street lights. Ms. Searchfield reported that not every light pole has electricity, so all poles do not get lights. In addition, the rickety poles cannot support weight, so decorations, such as snowflakes, cannot be added. The utility poles require a more complicated permitting process that involves the Town taking on insurance for the activity. Ms. Kelly said that the Chamber would like to decorate for the Independence Day holiday as well.

Mr. Reeves remarked that the Town street lights are 40 years old. The project should be put on the future project list. The Council may want to add funds for decorating activities.

- Park Use Ordinance and Village Green Art Display Discussion. This general discussion will resume after the event applications are reviewed in the springtime. Some specifics would include the scheduling of events on the weekend before Labor Day, scheduling major events on consecutive weekends, and the Village Green art display spots.

ITEM 6
NEXT MEETING DATE
March 5, 2018.

ITEM 7
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 5:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Banis
Recording Secretary