

Town of Canton  
Parks and Recreation Commission  
General Meeting  
Wednesday August 17, 2016  
7:00PM

1. **Present:** Todd Jacobs, Elaine Vallo, Ben Holden, Brian Miller, Joshua Medeiros, Director of Parks and Recreation and Cedric Lawrence, Recreation Coordinator. Absent Rebecca Andrews, Chris Eckert and Julius Fialkiewicz.

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm by Joshua Medeiros.

2. **Public Comment:** None.
3. **Approval of Minutes from 6-22-2016:** Todd Jacobs made a motion to approve the 6-22-16 minutes. Elaine seconded, all present in favor.

4. **Recreation Coordinator Introduction:** Cedric Lawrence, the departments new Recreation Coordinator introduced himself and his background. Cedric will be overseeing summer camp operations, recreation basketball league and a number of other programs and events. Cedric is working towards a new after school program for Cherry Brook to be launched in 2017. He also serves as a liaison with the Youth Services Bureau.

5. **Park Project Updates:**

**Dog Park:** Director Medeiros informed the commission that the Friends of Canton Dog Park Inc has been working independently making forward progress on the project. This included informal assessments with the Wetlands and Planning and Zoning Boards. Fundraising plans are set and ready to go once the group receives final paperwork from the state for 501c3 status. They will also be assisting at the annual Pooch Plunge event on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016. All proceeds from that event will go to the Friends Group for the Dog Park project. Additionally, the group has applied for a petsafe dog park grant. They are also working with a company of experts regarding design.

**Skate Park:** Director Medeiros informed the commission that the new Skate Park design was approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission at the July 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. The town is waiting for Rampage to provide the construction documents so the crew can begin site work in the coming weeks.

6. **Pool Membership Updates:** Director Medeiros provided the commission the latest spreadsheet with pool membership revenues and drop in revenues from 2011-2016. 2016 revenues were the highest since 2013. Based on the trends Director Medeiros felt pool membership was consistent. Daily Drop in has nearly doubled compared to the past several summers.

**Program Revenue Updates:** Director Medeiros informed the commission that the department has ended the fiscal year with substantial net revenues. The highest in recorded history for the department. Director Medeiros said he would also start sending the commission the monthly

reports he submits to the Board of Selectmen as another way to keep the commission in the loop on department progress.

7. **Other Business:** Ben Holden mentioned that he wanted to see more marketing done for the summer concert series. He stated that he did not see concert flyers at several local venues (post office, pizza shop, etc.). He also stated that the concerts did not appear in the Hartford Court. Director Medeiros stated that the summer concert attendance numbers are among the highest ever. Additionally, he was interviewed by the Hartford Courant and on a local radio station. The department takes a more conventional approach to marketing which includes the department's e-mail system and Facebook Page. Ben Holden felt we should use every media platform possible including more physical signs on bulletin boards.

Lastly, Todd Jacobs brought up a concern regarding the cleanliness of a storage closet at Mills Pond Pool. He said he saw equipment kept on the floor and it appeared to be disorganized. He mentioned lane lines being left in a pile on deck, grass clippings on the pool deck after it's been mowed and weeds coming up in some of the concrete. Director Medeiros said he would look into it.

8. **Adjournment:** Elaine Vallo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:39pm. Ben Holden seconded, all present in favor.