

**DRAFT**  
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**Parks & Recreation Commission**

**MINUTES**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT**  
**March 24, 2010**

**RECEIVED**

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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
FAIRFIELD, CT

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held Wednesday, March 24, 2010 at the Eunice Postol Parks & Recreation Center, at 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Ellery Plotkin; Dante Gallucci; Bob Seirup; Stacey Zahn; Bob McMaster and Barbara Rifkin

**ABSENT:** Michael Hahn; Brian Nerreau and Jack Tetreau

**ALSO PRESENT:** G. Lombardo, Dir Parks & Recreation and S. Kiraly, Asst. Dir., Parks & Recreation

**The meeting was called to order at 7:10p.m.**

**I. ACT ON MINUTES: February 24, 2010**

**MOTION:** B. McMaster made a motion seconded by B. Seirup to approve the minutes as written.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**II. COMMUNICATIONS:**

**1. Fairfield Arts Council Banner Kickoff-** Billie Jean Sullivan - 310 Hillbrook La. was present to request use of Sherman Green for Tues. June 8 (see letter).

**Motion**—S. Zahn made a motion, seconded by B. McMaster to approve the request.

**Vote- Unanimous**

**2. Heidi Prom- Dogwood Festival- May 7-9.** Dawn Lauf 124 Holly Dale Rd. was present to make the request for the Festival's 75<sup>th</sup> year event.

**Motion** – B. Seirup made a motion, seconded by B. Rifkin to approve the request.

**Vote- Unanimous**

**3. Amy Nagy – EEC Fundraiser-** Ms. Nagy, a member of the Parents group of EEC was present to request permission to hold a plant and Bake Sale at the Sherman Green on May 8. It was asked if the group was a non-profit. It was also suggested by S. Kiraly that they make use crowds at the Soccer games at Old Dam Rd.

**Motion** – D. Gallucci made a motion, seconded by S. Zahn to approve the request after Non-Profit proof is presented to the Dept.

**Vote- Unanimous**

**4. Betty Nelson- Service Dogs in Town Parks & Recreation Areas-** Ms. Nelson- 19 Falmouth Rd. was present to be sure that service dogs are permitted to be in Town Parks and Beaches. Mr. Lombardo responded that according to ADA Laws, guide dogs in service are permitted at any site. Ms. Nelson then asked the Commission for permission to take training dogs to fenced-in tennis courts or occasionally to beaches so that they might be exposed to more “distracting” areas. She explained that the dogs are tagged or could wear scarves or jackets to display that they are training. She noted that right now there is only 1 family in Town that has a dog in training. Mr. Lombardo was concerned about opening it up to anyone from any Town that might be training. He was also concerned that residents may not like dogs in the area when rules state otherwise. He asked that the Commission table the request until he has a chance to discuss it with the Town attorney or perhaps can determine a more appropriate fenced-in location.

**Motion** – B. Rifkin made a motion, seconded by S. Zahn to table the request to April 21.

**Vote- Unanimous**

**5. Robert Ehlers - Fairfield Rugby Club-** Mark Downes -341 Taunton Rd. was present to request the use of 5 weeks of field time from June 25, 2 nights a week from 5pm until dark in order to have a Middle School Rugby Club. Mr. Downes, also the HS Rugby coach, stated that they are looking to grow the program to eventually be a feeder-program. S. Kiraly stated that there is nothing available in spring or fall and that she has many lacrosse teams waiting for space as well. G. Lombardo wants to be sure that they realize that getting this summer permit does not mean that they can come back and say that they are “deserving” of the fields at other times. Unless the Town acquires more field space, things are just too tight.

**Motion** – B. Rifkin made a motion, seconded by S. Zahn to accommodate the Rugby Team with field time between June 25 and Aug 1 when football starts.

**Vote- Unanimous**

**G. Lombardo asked that a late request be added to the agenda**

**Motion**– B. Seirup made a motion, seconded by B. McMaster to add a request from Paul O’Brien to the agenda.

**Vote- Unanimous**

**6. Paul O’Brien - Scout Campout-** See letter requesting the use of Jennings Beach on April 24 for a Scout 199 campout and bonfire. They will also do a service project of cleaning up the area. Mr. Lombardo explained that this is a repeat and that he feels comfortable approving this.

**Motion** – B. McMaster made a motion, seconded by S. Zahn to approve the scout request.

**Vote- Unanimous**

**III. PUBLIC INPUT – None**

**IV. NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Gould Manor LL Plan -** Dave Pierpont- 82 Woods End Rd. was present along with Steve Schwartz- 250 Winton Rd. to present a plan to reconfigure the Little League fields at Gould Manor Park Field in order to improve the layout and have better and safer utilization. They stated that the League will be starting a capital campaign to pay for this and they realize there will be some excavation (see plan attached). There was discussion about the fencing between the fields, as well as the winter sledding that takes place. D. Gallucci speaking in favor of the plan stated that “what is there now is unsafe”, thought that they could investigate removable fencing. B. Rifkin asked about moving the parking lot closer to the field rather than asking users to cross Holland Hill Rd. G. Lombardo believed that the telephone poles might make that difficult and he thinks it is a State road but he will ask R. White. He felt that although Little League had contacted a Dist. 8 RTM member, the neighbors should be contacted before the Commission voted on the plan.

**Motion** – B. Rifkin made a motion, seconded by B. McMaster to table the request until April 21 or the neighborhood has been contacted.

**Vote- Unanimous**

**2. Revising Beach Sticker Rules -** S. Kiraly explained that this revision was more of a housekeeping issue and to make it easier to explain our rules to Citizens. The rules state that stickers are given to vehicles and not to the owners. More than anything else it was the LLC issue that was changed to state that the vehicle may not be issued to an LLC. Commissioners agreed that if you are an LLC, then you are trying NOT to have liability and they cannot have it both ways, therefore they must pay the non-resident rate.

**Motion** – B. Rifkin made a motion, seconded by R. Seirup to approve the new beach Sticker Rules and regulations in Section 3 as presented.

**Vote- Unanimous**

**3. Revolving Fund Limitations – See Old Business # 3.**

## **V. OLD BUSINESS:**

**1. Tennis Center Renovation Plan Report** – Jeff Gocke, owner of Fairfield Indoor Tennis (FIT) and Jerome Kerner, architect, were present to show design plans for the new building that they hope to replace the present Tennis Office, Beanery and Par 3 Golf Office. G. Lombardo explained to new members that this was in response to an RFQ by the Town to build a new building with the idea of giving the builder/owner a long-term lease (20 years) on the Winter Tennis Concession. The previous 2009 Commission has already approved the concept and now FIT is present to show the building plans and parking proposal. G. Lombardo explained that these plans need to be approved and can then be brought to the BOS and then the RTM (which needs to approve the long-term lease) and then the Zoning Board.

**Motion** – B. Rifkin made a motion, seconded by B. Seirup to approve the FIT plans for the new Tennis facility/Beanery as presented.

**Vote- Unanimous**

### **2. Bocce Club Request for Alcohol Use - Withdrawn**

**3. Revolving Fund Limitations Set by BOF- (should have been under Old Business on Agenda)** -G. Lombardo asked that the Commission hear all of these points as seen in Mr. Flatto's recent letter (see attached). Mr. Flatto asked that the present limit of anything over \$200K left in the Revolving Fund in on Sept. 30 that is then given to the General Fund be lowered to \$100K. There was discussion as to whether the Dept. can still do business with only \$100K. B. Rifkin stated that once they give up the money, they can never get it back. Others stated that the Dept uses this money to build and fix fields and make other improvements. D. Gallucci liked it to "Three Card Monty" where we give the money and then ask for it back to make necessary improvements. He felt it was unwise to lower the amount.

**Motion** – B. Rifkin made a motion, seconded by R. Seirup to maintain the Revolving Fund limit at the present Limit of \$200K.

**Vote- Unanimous (S. Zahn no longer present)**

**3. Beach Sticker Rate Increase for 2011-** Another point in Mr. Flatto's letter was to raise revenues in the 2010-11 Budget by raising the price of Beach Stickers. It was decided to discuss both the Beach Sticker and Marina rates at the same time. Mr. Donald Peterson Galloping Hill Rd. asked to speak regarding the Marina rates and said that while he has no problem having the revenues cover the expenses, he suggested that raising the rates for the marina to meet other Towns' rates was like raising rates for DVDs at the library because they cost a certain amount at the store, or charging tuition at the public school because Private school costs a certain amount. G. Lombardo stated that there have actually been several new expenses at the marina, \$30K for gas pumps, \$20K for some work at the new marina Bldg. and \$38K for piling work. These were not budgeted but need to be paid for out of the Public Works budget. He added that there is a waitlist for the Marina and that owners basically get the slips for life. He made the comparisons to what other Towns cost. While members felt that "getting inline with the market" was not a bad idea at the marina, they looked at the beaches differently as it is one universal thing in the Town that most people use, unlike the marina that benefits only 613 people in the Town. B. Seirup opposed making it a profit center for the Town and that certain things should be covered by taxes. B. Rifkin suggested that the proposed 40% marina increase was too substantial a jump. She suggested 20% this year and perhaps 20% the next year but that could be revisited.

**Motion** – B. McMaster made a motion, seconded by R. Seirup to keep the rate as it is.

**Vote - 4-1 (Gallucci opposed) (S. Zahn no longer present).**

### **4. Increase Marina Rates for 2011- As discussed above -**

**Motion** – B. Rifkin made a motion, seconded by B. McMaster to raise the Marina in-water boat rates by 20%.

**Vote -3-2 (Gallucci and Seirup opposed). (S. Zahn no longer present) Motion Passes.**

**5. Charge Youth Groups for Field Usage** – Another proposal by Mr. Flatto, this would require that the Leagues in Town (Little League, Pop Warner, FUSA, etc.) who use our fields, pay a per-person fee. G. Lombardo explained that the Town pays almost 1/2 million dollars to maintain our fields. Members were completely against this idea stating that fields are part of what is provided

to the Town through their taxes. An example was "we'll next be charging people to use the streets and walk on the grass."

**Motion** – B. Rifkin made a motion, seconded by B. McMaster to continue the present policy for field usage.

**Vote - Unanimous (S. Zahn no longer present).**

**6. Girl's Softball Field Report** – G. Lombardo reported that Engineering Dir., Bill Hurley has finished the permit process and will get it to the BOF and then it goes to the RTM.

**7. Penfield Renovation Project Report** – E. Plotkin reported that the Sub-Ctte. plans to have a meeting on Monday, March 29 but due to Passover he will not attend. Mr. Lombardo will be on vacation but has asked R. White to attend for him.

#### **VI. BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT: No Report**

#### **VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT: G. Lombardo Reported:**

- Beach stickers arrived late due to a printer issue but should be sent out soon to the seniors, free of charge and then to others as they purchase them.
- A meeting was held with Ch. of Commerce and the 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman and others to discuss possibly moving the Sturges Cottage to the Recreation Dept. property where the Chamber would use it for offices. It is still in the discussion phase but would be part of an effort to preserve the cottage.

#### **VIII. PROGRAM REPORT: No Report**

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, B. McMaster made a motion to adjourn at 9:10

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Ryan, Recording Secretary