

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
TOWN OF FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT
February 16, 2011

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held Wednesday, February 16, 2011, at the Eunice Postol Parks & Recreation Center -75 Mill Plain Rd., at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Michael Hahn; Jack Tetreau; Barbara Rifkin; Bob Seirup; Dante Gallucci and Bob McMaster

ABSENT: Ellery Plotkin; John Mitola and Brian Nerreau

ALSO PRESENT: S. Kiraly, Asst. Dir. Parks & Recreation

The meeting was called to order at 6:55p.m.

I. ACT ON MINUTES: January 27, 2011

MOTION: B. Seirup made a motion seconded by J. Mitola to approve the minutes with the following correction: Craig Curley is the Field Comm. Chairman and not the *President* of the Fairfield National Little League. **VOTE:** 3 in favor 3 abstain (B. Rifkin, Tetreau, McMaster).

II. COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Dave Boback- Fairfield Baseball Club Bench Request

Although Mr. Boback was not able to be present, the Commission discussed the request in his absence and agreed that it would be a nice addition to the area. B. Seirup asked if there would ever be plans to build bleachers in that spot but S. Kiraly did not feel that would be the case and if there were ever a need, the bench could be moved.

Motion- J. Tetreau made a motion, seconded by M. Hahn to approve the request. **Vote- Unanimous**

III. PUBLIC INPUT – B. McMaster reported that a deer had recently become entangled in the soccer goals at McKinley School. He asked if they could be removed after the Fall season. S. Kiraly stated that she would have the nets removed but keep the goals themselves on the property. He agreed.

IV. NEW BUSINESS: Jim Bradley- Presentation from Harbor Commission- J. Bradley of the Harbor Mgmt. Commission, 111 Cherry Lane and Jeff Stedman, a consultant for the Commission were both present to explain their efforts in obtaining permits from the DEP for some improvements to the Lower Wharf area. Using maps and drawings, they pointed out areas where they would like to increase the access to the ramp and make some repairs to improve the Community Sailing access for the Ideal 18'. They would like to repair the float for Community Sailing and possibly add additional moorings. They have been working with DEP for almost 7 years and over those years the DEP has reduced the approved area to be dredged until it's almost "ineffective". According to Mr. Bradley, the DEP does not like to dredge areas that have not previously been dredged and as with the sand bar, they begin to view this area as a "resource" and may, in time, not permit the area to be touched. Feeling that things have progressed to a point where they do not feel it's effective, the Harbor Commission is going to reject the DEP's most recent limited approval and appeal it. As they go back to the drawing board, they are asking for support from the Town's organizations; Police, Fire, Selectmen, etc. in order to present a strong case for improved access, safety, etc. to the DEP.

B. Seirup asked why it needs to be dredged and was told that at extreme low tide, boats are aground. It was also stated that the Fire Dept., on occasion, needs the ramp to get their inflatable rescue boat in the water.

J. Bradley mentioned that they have been working closely with R. White of Public Works and the Engineering Dept. J. Tetreau stated that any improvements will be beneficial.

Motion- D. Gallucci made a motion, seconded by J. Tetreau to approve the following resolution: The Parks & Recreation Commission supports the application of the Harbor Management Commission regarding the dredging, repair and improvement plan for the Lower Wharf area as submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection.

Vote- Unanimous

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. To Hear an Update Report on Field Renovation at Gould Manor Report– No Report

2. Tennis Center Renovation Plan Report – No Report

3. Girl's Softball Field Report – S. Kiraly reported that they are moving forward and are scheduled to be on the TPZ's March 8 agenda.

4. Penfield Renovation Project Report – S. Kiraly reported that due to the significant snow, the project is behind schedule, but that DPW is working hard to lay down the cement foundation and try to make up some lost time.

VI. BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT: No Report

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT: No Report

VIII. PROGRAM REPORT – S. Kiraly reported that the Department's largest yearly registration took place on Feb 2, the day of a very large snowstorm and even though Town offices were given a 2 hour delay, all the Staff came in to take care of the registration. It was completed without incident or computer issues in 2.5 hours and 86% of all registrations were done online.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, B. McMaster made a motion to adjourn at 7:25

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Ryan, Recording Secretary