

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF APRIL 13, 2011

**DRAFT MINUTES**

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Fairfield was held on Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Eunice Postol Parks & Recreation Center, 75 Mill Plain Road, Fairfield, Connecticut 06824.

PRESENT: Ellery Plotkin Chairman; Jack Tetreau; Michael Hahn; Barbara Rifkin; Robert Seirup; Robert McMaster; and Brian Nerreau.

ABSENT: Dante Gallucci and John Mitola.

ALSO PRESENT: Gerald Lombardo, Director of Parks and Recreation; Robin Bimmel, Marina Mgr.

Chairman Plotkin called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

I. Act on Minutes of March 16, 2011: Brian Nerreau moved, and Jack Tetreau seconded to approve the minutes as written. *Motion Passed 5-0-1 (M. Hahn abstained) B Rifkin is not reflected in this vote, as she arrived subsequent to this matter being heard.*

II. COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Mary Cody – Free Melanoma Screening – Jack Tetreau moved, and Michael Hahn seconded to table the request until a future date. *Motion passed unanimously.*

(Barbara Rifkin arrived at 7:06 p.m.)

2. Dr. Peter Schirmann – National Day of Prayer – Sherman Green, May 5, 2011: Dr. Schirmann was present to make the request, a repeat event, gathering people of all faiths for an observation of the National Day of Prayer. Michael Hahn moved, and Bob McMaster seconded to approve the request. *Motion passed unanimously.*

3. Valeria Garrido-Bisceglia – World Artists Network- Sherman Green -April 23 and August 20, 2011. Ms. Garrido-Bisceglia noted that the date request would now be for May 28 rather than April 23 as well as August 20. Members asked about the event and non- profit status. While not a 501c-3, a federal standing, the organization does have non-profit status in the State of Ct. There will be nothing sold, however a donation jar will be placed for donations to raise money for supplies for future events. Following discussion, Brian Nerreau moved, and Jack Tetreau seconded to change the request date to May 28, 2011. *Motion passed unanimously.* Bob McMaster moved, and Jack Tetreau seconded to approve the request as amended. *Motion passed unanimously.*

4. Nicole Marohn, MS Society –Swim/Run Event– Jennings Beach September 25, 2011. G. Lombardo let the Commission know that this is the race previously known as the Triathlon. The police let them know that they would not approve the biking portion of the race. He also mentioned that he was concerned that the Tri Fitness group should take no more than the money that is owed to set up the race as had happened in previous years when they received more than the charity. Ms. Pascale Butcher from Tri-Fitness agreed that MS is the sole beneficiary and that she will not be taking

a salary. Bob Seirup moved, and Brian Nereau seconded to approve the request Motion passed 5-2 with M. Hahn and B. McMaster abstaining.

5. Rich White, Public Works Dept. – Robin Bimmel of the Marina Division of the Public Works Dept. was present to respond to any questions regarding the letter from Mr. White (see attached). Mr. Bimmel explained that they want to secure the Police fleet by putting all the boats in one area and installing a gate. He added that they will have to move 4 people who were originally in those slips and they have agreed to move without complaint.

Barbara Rifkin moved, and Jack Tetreau seconded to approve this plan as requested. Motion passed unanimously.

### III. PUBLIC INPUT – None

IV. NEW BUSINESS –1. J. Tetreau wanted to bring to the Commission’s attention that he has been working with Sports Image, a group that helps with sponsorships and raising money. He believes that other groups may want to use them as well. He would like to be able to put up a banner or give recognition for contributions. G. Lombardo does not want permanent banners hanging but has no problem with some sort of plaque or temporary recognition. E. Plotkin asked that the Commission be kept posted.

2. E. Plotkin asked about the recent naming of the Par 3 Golf Course, G. Lombardo explained that the Golf Commission does not have permission to name as the Parks & Rec. Commission does, therefore the BOS named the course the Carl J. Dickman Par 3 Golf Course. He added that he will be placing directional signs to aid in the area as to where the beach, fields, golf, tennis, etc. are located. This was a request from the neighbors. He will be doing the same up near H. Smith Richardson.

### V. OLD BUSINESS:

1. To hear and act upon a request regarding the Organic Farm and a previous authorization given by the Commission. *Pam Jones, 1495 Cross Hwy.*, came before the Commission to give an update on the Organic Farm that was approved at the Parsell’s Property on May 19, 2010. The group has been in discussion with the Conservation Dept. about leasing two acres of property on the Hoyden’s land but they are going to be required to provide a bird study and they are also not sure about the availability of water which is so crucial. Ms. Jones therefore wanted to come back to the Commission to see about reverting their plans back to Parsells. G. Lombardo let her know that he is not sure himself when they will start the field project, as it has just been approved. He doubts it will be before August as there are so many other projects going on right now. He also reminded the Commission that the request for the Organic Farm was not on the Zoning approval because they were under the impression that the farm was no longer interested in using the land. He let her know that the Zoning Dept. will direct her as to the next steps since the area has never been farmed before. Mr. Lombardo could not respond about running a line for water from the house, except to say that the demolition of the house will be the first order of business when they start the project so that may not be a good plan. He advised a conversation with Rich White. Ms. Jones asked about fencing to keep deer out and Mr. Lombardo told her that the Town could not help with the fencing. Mr. Plotkin asked that the Commission be kept up to date.

2. To hear an update report on the Girl’s Softball Field: Gerald Lombardo advised the Commission that the approval was received from the TPZ with a vote of 5-1. There is no schedule yet but he knows that R. White is anxious to start the project.

3. To hear an update report on the Penfield Renovation Project: Gerald Lombardo reported that pavilion is starting to take shape. They have sped up the work and are paying the contractor to accelerate their schedule with double shifts so that the building will open on July 1. Rentals have been taken for August and on since he anticipates a punch list for July. The Concession bid went out and 3 bids were received. The winning bid came from the present concessionaire, Penfield Beach Café. He bid \$59K, \$49K and \$47K for three years. The \$59K will be prorated to \$43K for this year as the contract will be given for June 23 and will be prorated further if necessary. Joan Ryan let the Commission know that Jill Walker of the FBRA called to say that they will not be holding the sandcastle event this year due to the fact that they were unsure if the venue would be ready and they would have had to arrange for things a few months ago. They plan to return next year.

4. To hear an update report on Tennis Center Renovation Plan – No report.

VI. BD. OF EDUCATION REPORT: – No report provided this evening.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Gerald Lombardo reported that he has been going to Budget hearings and providing information as requested. The BOF passed his budgets and he will go to the RTM sub-ctte. this evening. The one directive he has received has been to look at raising revenues for certain entities such as Penfield, Beach Stickers, the Tennis Center and the Marina. He explained that the Commission usually looks at breaking even since people feel that they are paying taxes for these types of services. B. Rifkin added that "in tough times it's nice to have affordable programs." Mr. Lombardo stated that they did not pinpoint any specifics or give him a number that they wanted to reach. They are simply trying to raise revenue for the Town.

VII. PROGRAM REPORT: - Mr. Lombardo reported

- The summer brochure was mailed and registration would take place on May 4.
- Beach sticker applications will go out only to those who have not provided an email address.
- The April vacation programs were cancelled due to low enrollment because of the shortened vacation.

When asked by Bob Seirup about guards at the Skate Park, Mr. Lombardo responded that there will be volunteer parents monitoring the park on a schedule that they have created and that he is receiving regular email reports from them. The biggest issue remains bikes and they are planning to put in bollards (traffic poles) to try to prevent bikes from getting in. Police will be making arrests. The kids want rules enforced so they don't lose the park.

Jack Tetreau reported that Barbara Rifkin and Ellery Plotkin both gave wonderful speeches at the award dinner honoring Barbara Rifkin as the recipient of the Eunice Postol Award for public service on April 10, 2011 at the Patterson Club.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Commission, Robert McMaster *moved*, and Barbara Rifkin *seconded* to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. *Motion passed unanimously.*  
Respectfully submitted,

Joan Ryan,  
Recording Secretary