

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MAY 18, 2011

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Fairfield was held on Wednesday, May 18, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Eunice Postol Parks & Recreation Center, 75 Mill Plain Road, Fairfield, Connecticut 06824.

PRESENT: Ellery Plotkin Chairman; Barbara Rifkin; Robert Seirup; Dante Gallucci; Robert McMaster; John Mitola; and Brian Nerreau. ABSENT: Michael Hahn and Jack Tetreau. ALSO PRESENT: Gerald Lombardo, Director of Parks and Recreation.

Chairman Plotkin called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

I. Act on Minutes of April 13, 2011: Brian Nerreau *moved*, and Barbara Rifkin *seconded* to approve the meeting minutes of April 13, 2011. **In Favor:** Ellery Plotkin; Barbara Rifkin; Robert Seirup; Robert McMaster; and Brian Nerreau. **Opposed:** (None). **Abstention:** John Mitola and Dante Gallucci. *Motion passes 5-0-2.*

II. COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Rabbi Satlow – Congregation Beth El – Friday Night Beach Services: Mr. Lazinger was present this evening on behalf of Congregation Beth El. Mr. Lazinger indicated that the Congregation wishes to continue conducting services on Friday evenings at Jennings Beach, and requested a limited number of parking passes. Gerald Lombardo recommended approval of this request. Barbara Rifkin *moved*, and Brian Nerreau *seconded* to approve the request of Congregation Beth El to conduct the services at Jennings Beach on Friday evenings, and to provide a limited number of parking passes. *Motion passed unanimously.*

2. Marion Simmons, Pet Protectors – Sherman Green, June 11, 2011 10-4 p.m.: Marion Simmons was present this evening to request permission to conduct a fund raiser at the Sherman Green on behalf of Pet Protectors. Gerald Lombardo recommended approval of this event. Brian Nerreau *moved*, and Robert Seirup *seconded* to approve the request of Pet Protectors. *Motion passed unanimously.*

3. Chamber of Commerce – Trick or Treat on Safety Street – Sherman Green October 31, 2011. Barbara Rifkin *moved*, and Robert McMaster *seconded* to approve the request of Chamber of Commerce to conduct the Trick or Treat event at Sherman Green on October 31, 2011. *Motion passed unanimously.*

4. Chamber of Commerce – Santa Visit – Sherman Green, November 26, 2011. Barbara Rifkin *moved*, and Robert McMaster *seconded* to approve the request of Chamber of Commerce to conduct the Santa Visit event at Sherman Green on November 26, 2011. *Motion passed unanimously.*

5. Bob Seirup, PAL, Sand Sculpture Contest, Penfield Beach, Sunday, August 21, 2011. Robert Seirup indicated that this is the twelfth year for this event, and noted that it is a popular family event. Brian Nerreau *moved*, and Barbara Rifkin *seconded* to approve the request of PAL to conduct the sand sculpture contest at Penfield Beach on Sunday, August 21, 2011. **In Favor** Ellery Plotkin; Barbara Rifkin; Dante Gallucci; Robert McMaster; John Mitola; and Brian Nerreau. **Opposed:** (None). **Abstention:** Robert Seirup. *Motion passes 6-0-1.*

6. Pat Neary, Paddleboard Event – benefit CT Challenge Cancer Care – September 10, 2011: Pat Neary was present this evening, and provided the Commission with a description of the event, noting that it will include both kayakers and paddleboarders. Last year there were 22 participants; it is anticipated that there will be 50 this year. Robert McMaster *moved*, and Robert Seirup *seconded* to approve the request of Pat Neary to conduct the paddleboard event on September 10, 2011. *Motion passed unanimously.*

III. PUBLIC INPUT – None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. To hear and act upon Drew Park Community Garden Guidelines: Gerald Lombardo advised the Commission that there is no room for expansion at Drew Park, and noted that an alternative location with more space is being reviewed. An area at Oldfield School near the walking trail is being considered; this location would not be under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

1. To hear and act upon a request regarding the Organic Farm: Gerald Lombardo reported that he attended a recent meeting with Kenneth Flatto and DPW Director Richard White. The Hoyden's Hill Open Space area is being considered again; a bird study at the Hoyden's Hill Open Space will be required. The matter is going to be reviewed by the Conservation Commission at its May 19, 2011 meeting.

2. To hear an update report on the Plan Changes to the Gould Manor Field Project: Gerald Lombardo distributed a January 27, 2011 memo regarding this matter which reviewed various items of clarification, and outlined items of discussion concerning the fencing. Mr. Lombardo noted that clarification was needed concerning the Parks and Recreation Commission's previous vote and intent with regard to the fencing. The Commission reviewed the plan which identified the location of the permanent fencing as between the fields running from back stop to the outer edge of the infield. Following considerable discussion, Barbara Rifkin *moved*, and Brian Nerreau *seconded* to confirm approval of the plan as revised by the January 27, 2011 memo and the intent of the Parks and Recreation Commission's previous unanimous vote which included the installation of permanent fencing between the two infields identified as "Field 1" and "Field 2". *Motion passed unanimously.*

3. To hear an update report on the Girls Softball Field: Gerald Lombardo reported that tree removal has begun. Mr. Lombardo further reported that a temporary restraining order to stop work at the site was filed by the neighbors. Gerald Lombardo will meet with the town attorney to discuss the pending litigation and to determine how to proceed. Dante Gallucci noted his objections to the neighbor's actions in delaying the project, and further indicated that the girl's softball field is wanted by the residents, and hopes that the Town can proceed quickly with this project. Barbara Rifkin also noted her objection to the neighbor's actions.

4. To hear an update report on the Penfield Renovation Project Report: Gerald Lombardo reported that this project is moving forward, and that he anticipates meeting with his staff to review suggestions for maximizing this asset for the Town of Fairfield. Signs will be going up this week to notify the public of the designated smoking areas.

5. To hear an update report on Tennis Center Renovation Plan Report: Gerald Lombardo reported that this project is moving forward, and that the next step is zoning approval. Some of the plan revisions include expanded parking areas.

VI. BD. OF EDUCATION REPORT: To hear and act upon information in the BOE Report: John Mitola reported that there is a meeting scheduled to discuss the budget issues, and to obtain input from the superintendent; this will also be a public comment session. The Commission discussed the potential impact on the sports programs, and potential for employee layoffs due to budget cuts. The Commission discussed pay for play and fundraising alternatives; Barbara Rifkin indicated that she does not agree with this concept and that the sports programs are very important to the students. Ms. Rifkin stated that she believes the Town should fund the sports programs for its residents. There is a referendum scheduled to reinstate the \$800k cut to the budget.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT: To hear and act upon information in the Director's Report: Gerald Lombardo reported that revenue from the sale of beach stickers is down, but that is likely due to the poor weather. Blocks have been installed at Penfield Beach to provide a temporary berm during construction activities; it is anticipated that the blocks can be removed in a month. The locker area is open and the first aid station and life guard facility has been placed in that area while the building remains closed. Mr. Lombardo noted that he is very pleased with the contractor on this project and indicated that he is very grateful for the efforts of DPW Director Richard White. Staffing of the lifeguard and playground programs is almost complete.

VII. PROGRAM REPORT: - No report provided this evening.

VII. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Commission, Robert Seirup *moved*, and Dante Gallucci *seconded* to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. *Motion passed unanimously.*