

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF JUNE 15, 2011

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Fairfield was held on Wednesday, June 15, 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; Robert McMaster; and Jack Tetreau.  
ABSENT: Dante Gallucci; Brian Nerreau; Michael Hahn and John Mitola  
ALSO PRESENT: Gerald Lombardo, Director of Parks and Recreation.

Chairman Plotkin called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

I. Act on Minutes of May 18, 2011: Bob McMaster *moved*, and Bob Seirup *seconded* to approve the meeting minutes of May 18, 2011. **In Favor:** Ellery Plotkin; Barbara Rifkin; Robert Seirup; Robert McMaster; **Opposed:** (None). **Abstention:** Jack Tetreau *Motion passes 4-0-1*.

II. COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Jill Kellerman –McKinley School Carnival-Representing McKinley School, Ms. Kellerman asked that they have access on Sunday April 22 for setup. Their carnival will take place from Thursday April 26 and go thru Sunday, May 29. Gerald Lombardo recommended approval of this request but did tell the representatives that he had complaints from one neighbor last year that the set up went on past 9pm and was a disruption. He reminded them of the rules and they assured the Commission that they would abide by them and were surprised by the complaint. Barbara Rifkin *moved*, and Jack Tetreau *seconded* to approve the request. *Motion passed unanimously*.

2. Kathy McPadden – Easton, CT. Ms. McPadden asked for permission to place a memorial bench at Ye Yacht Yard in honor of her father, Town doctor, Francis Scholan who passed away earlier in the year. Gerald Lombardo recommended approval of this event and stated that he and Robin Bimmel would work with Ms. McPadden to make arrangements. Barbara Rifkin *moved*, and Robert Seirup *seconded* to approve the request. *Motion passed unanimously*.

III. PUBLIC INPUT – Bob Seirup asked that there be more clear directions given on bonfire permits or that signs be placed to direct the users. As a Special Officer he sees the bonfires going up in various locations. There was also discussion as to the possibility of the DPW digging a pit or rocking off an area. G. Lombardo stated that he would discuss the possibilities with R. White and report back. He wants the location to be directly in front of the stone house on the beach. The permits will be made more specific. Mr. Seirup also discussed the Skate Park that he feels is “out of control”. He stated that users are not listening to the attendants, wearing their helmets or leaving when asked (specifically bikes). Mr. Lombardo and others discussed their own experiences when making spot checks. He will take the matter up with Anthony Calabrese.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Beach Parking Meter – G. Lombardo reported that he would like to place automated meters at Penfield Beach this summer on a trial basis to see whether it is a positive plan for the department and the community. It would not be space-designated, but rather the person coming to the lot would punch in their plate and pay either by credit card or cash to park in any space. They would then place a receipt inside their windshield. It would reduce the need for parking attendants and alleviate the possibility of

counterfeit day passes. He is hoping that this trial would be at no cost to the Town. At the present time he is speaking to several vendors and does not have any more details. The meters would likely cost approx. \$8,000. They can be bolted to cement slabs and could be unbolted during the winter months. Mr. Lombardo also stated that if the Commission chose to, these could be used during the off-season to charge the horse trailers that park at the beach.

Barbara Rifkin *moved*, and Jack Tetreau *seconded* to approve the plan of placing meters at the Penfield lots on a trail basis. *Motion passed unanimously.*

On the subject of beaches, Mr. Plotkin stated that in the future he would like the Commission to discuss raising the age when seniors receive free stickers. He feels that 62 is young. Mr. Lombardo stated that 62 is the age that the Town uses, the Golf Commission, etc. Mr. Plotkin asked that he let the other Commissions know that they will be addressing this issue. He instructed Mr. Lombardo to come to the Commission with numbers of each age so that they could see the implications of changing the age.

#### V. OLD BUSINESS:

1. To hear an update report on the Girls Softball Field: Gerald Lombardo reported that Town went to court over neighbor's objections to the field and the cutting of trees. The court upheld the Town and so they will proceed with the plan for the field and the demolition of the house. He hopes to begin in the next month or so after DPW finishes their Penfield work. If they start in September and put sod down in October, he foresees a spring opening. They plan to make the field an organic field. Mr. Plotkin asked that the naming of the field be placed on the July agenda as they had had previous discussions of naming it for Denise Dougiello.

2. To hear an update report on the Penfield Renovation Project Report: Gerald Lombardo reported that this project is moving forward, and that he anticipates that they will open by the 4<sup>th</sup> of July however he does not anticipate that the concession will be ready. Mr. Lombardo stated that he is going to ask the Commission to consider raising the rental rates for the new facility and that there should be a difference between the Jacky Durrell and this new building. He added that the outside bathrooms will be year-round and there will be surveillance cameras around the facility. The Commission will have their July 20 meeting there. Mr. Plotkin also asked that they be able to tour the building at the end of June if possible. Mr. Lombardo tentatively scheduled that tour for June 29 at 6pm. Plans will also be made for a dedication.

3. To hear an update report on Tennis Center Renovation Plan Report: Gerald Lombardo reported that this project is moving forward and they are applying for all their permits. They are working with Atty. John Fallon. If all goes well we can hope for a late May opening next year.

VI. BD. OF EDUCATION REPORT: No Report due to the absence of John Mitola. There was a short discussion regarding the failed referendum that took place on Tuesday, June 14.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT: To hear and act upon information in the Director's Report: Gerald Lombardo reported that he is closing out budgets for the 2010-11 Fiscal Year. Summer camp employees will have their training at the end of the month.

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

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Commission, Robert McMaster *moved*, and Jack Tetreau *seconded* to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. *Motion passed unanimously.*