

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF JULY 20, 2011

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Fairfield was held on Wednesday, July 20, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Penfield Pavilion, Fairfield Beach Road, Fairfield, Connecticut 06824.

PRESENT: Ellery Plotkin Chairman; Barbara Rifkin; Robert Seirup; Robert McMaster; Dante Gallucci; Brian Nerreau and Michael Hahn

ABSENT: Jack Tetreau and John Mitola

ALSO PRESENT: Gerald Lombardo, Director of Parks and Recreation.

Chairman Plotkin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

I. Act on Minutes of June 15, 2011: Bob McMaster *moved*, and Bob Seirup *seconded* to approve the meeting minutes of June 15, 2011 with the following amendment: Under Communications #2. Remove the words Pet Protectors from the last line, inadvertently not removed from previous minutes.

In Favor: Ellery Plotkin; Barbara Rifkin; Robert Seirup; Robert McMaster;

Opposed: None.

Abstention: Dante Gallucci; Brian Nerreau; Michael Hahn

Motion passes 4-0-3.

II. COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Bob Seirup for PAL—Mr. Seirup requested permission for PAL to hold their annual Fishing Contest at South Benson Marina on Sat., August 20, 2011 (see letter). Brian Nerreau *moved*, and Barbara Rifkin *seconded* to approve the request. *Motion passed 6-0-1 (Bob Seirup abstained).*

2. Jeff Holmberg on behalf of Black Rock Congregational Church- Mr. Holmberg was present to request permission to hold a softball/kickball fundraiser at two of the Town fields. Mr. Lombardo reported that Sue Kiraly had spoken to Mr. Holmberg to arrange for fields and she let him know that the Town does not get involved as far as umpires or registering entrants. Mr. Holmberg understood and also was made aware of the need to provide insurance and a Hold Harmless Agreement. Barbara Rifkin *moved*, and Robert McMaster *seconded* to approve the request with the Director's approval after all requirements are met. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Plotkin announced that Mr. Hahn has submitted his resignation to the Town Clerk due to an upcoming marriage and move out of state. His last meeting will be in August.

III. PUBLIC INPUT – Joseph Fischer- 114 Hillcrest Road, Mr. Fisher spoke to the Commission about the work that was done on the first section of the Penfield Pavilion and he now sees rusting nails and peeling paint. He is concerned and hopes that the same materials are not being used on the new section. Mr. Lombardo replied that the materials are not the same and that they are aware of the issues. DPW will address them as soon as they complete the new section. Mr. Fischer also noted the plastic balance bands on the bottom of the deck picnic tables could be shifted to prevent the tables from tilting when someone sits down.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. To hear and/or take action on naming of new field

G. Lombardo explained that the Commission had wanted to wait until the Parsell's property was completely through the approval process but that now things are moving forward and the field and or park can be named. It was discussed and decided that rather than just the field, the entire park should be named. Suggestions were the *Denise Dougiello Memorial Park*. The family was asked if there was any middle initial that they may want to use. Darlene Dougiello spoke, thanking the Commission for honoring her sister in this way. She asked that perhaps they ponder the exact name and get back to the Commission.

Brian Nerreau *moved*, and Barbara Rifkin *seconded* to approve the naming of the Parsell's Property in honor of Selectman Denise Dougiello following input from the family. *Motion passed unanimously.*

V. OLD BUSINESS:

1. **To hear an update report on Gould Manor Field:** G. Lombardo reported that he wanted to be sure that the Town was protected as far as insurances, etc. so he recently met with Little League reps. and Town Atty. Eileen Kennelly to draft an agreement (see attached) which he distributed to the Commission. It will include the fact that there is no ownership by the League, that the Town will maintain the fields, the height of the fences, etc. It must go to the Bd. of Selectman in August for approval. Michael Hahn asked that they be sure that American Little League understands the cost of such a large project and the possibility of issues concerning the ledge, load-bearing aspects of the hill, etc. D. Gallucci replied that each LL has its own charter and while he doesn't fully know American League's Charter, they are all smart men and know what they are doing.

2. **To hear an update report on the Girls Softball Field:** G. Lombardo reported that the project is moving forward and the house on the Parsell's property is posted for demolition. He added that the Girls 12 and under have won the CT State Championship and are headed to "Regionals". If they win, they go to Oregon just like Williamsport for Little League. D. Gallucci added, "This Town has an elite team and I am very pleased that the field is coming together."

3. **To hear an update report on the Penfield Renovation Project Report:** Gerald Lombardo reported that the building does not yet have a Cert. of Occupancy. The deck has a temporary one. He described work that still needs to be done but hopes for completion soon with the concession opening on 7/30. Final "punch list items" would need to be done after that. He will give a tour after the meeting. Members of the Commission asked about the locker lottery and were told that it went well and the office had very few complaints.

4. **To hear an update report on Tennis Center Renovation Plan Report:** Gerald Lombardo reported that this project is moving forward and they hope to go before the TPZ at either their first meeting in August or if not, their second.

VI. BD. OF EDUCATION REPORT: No Report due to the absence of John Mitola.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT: To hear and act upon information in the Director's Report: Gerald Lombardo reported:

- Summer camps have been going well the Playground Camps recently had a Field Day and it was run exceptionally well by Anthony Calabrese.
- He went to a hearing earlier in the day for the large tree at Sherman Green. No public came to speak about the issue. Tree Warden, Ken Placko and a rep. from Bartlett Trees were present to say that it needs to come down. Will likely happen in early Fall.
- The Summer concert series has been a huge success both for the adults as well as the Peanut Butter Jam Kid's Concerts.
- There was a near-drowning at Jennings Beach during the previous week and two members of the DPW staff went in to save the victim while someone on the beach performed CPR until medical help arrived. The victim, a senior citizen was a regular swimmer at the beach each day and unfortunately, while she did survive for several days, the family just removed her from life support on Monday.

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

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Commission, Robert McMaster *moved*, and Bob Seirup *seconded* to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Ryan, Recording Secretary