

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes of September 21, 2011

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Fairfield was held on Wednesday, September 21, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Penfield Pavilion, Fairfield Beach Road, Fairfield, Connecticut 06824.

PRESENT: Ellery Plotkin Chairman; Barbara Rifkin; Jack Tetreau; Robert Seirup; Robert McMaster; Dante Gallucci; Brian Nerreau and Alexa Mullady

ABSENT: John Mitola

ALSO PRESENT: Gerald Lombardo, Director of Parks and Recreation; Sue Kiraly, Asst. Dir. Parks & Rec.

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

Mr. Plotkin introduced new member, Alexa Mullady who has been appointed to take the place of Michael Hahn who recently moved out of town.

I. **Act on Minutes of July 20, 2011:** Brian Nerreau *moved*, and Bob McMaster *seconded* to approve the meeting minutes of July 20 2011. *Motion passes 4-0-2* **Abstention:** Jack Tetreau and Alexa Mullady. D. Gallucci and B. Rifkin were not yet present.

II. COMMUNICATIONS: B. Seirup *moved* and J. Tetreau *seconded* to hear Communication #10 first in order to allow those present for that issue to go to the Flood & Erosion Meeting at 7:30. *Motion passed unanimously.*

10. David Farrington of 641 Penfield Rd spoke on behalf of the neighbors who signed a petition expressing their concern about the flooding from recent storms that they believe was a direct result of the newly renovated pavilion. They were also unhappy that the port-o-johns and lifeguard chairs were not moved prior to Tropical Storm Irene. They felt that due to the damage from these items, their properties were flooded more than they would otherwise have been. G. Lombardo apologized for the lifeguard chairs not being taken in. They are buried 3 ft. deep and have never lifted during a storm before. He assured the neighbors that they will be moved from Penfield in the future. He also stated that the port-o-johns were an oversight.

Allen Hale 239 Edwards St. was present to ask if the seawall will be rebuilt that was referenced on the Building Ctte. minutes by Mr. White. He added that he has lived here for over 20 years and has never had this type of flooding. He feels it is depreciating his property values.

Kathy Niznansky, 619 Penfield Rd. also addressed the Commission and in addition to the aforementioned issues she spoke of clogged drains and summed it up to "neglect" but also feels nothing like this happened before this building was built. Mr. Lombardo addressed all the issues and stated that Rich White was aware of these concerns and would be taking up the flooding issue at the 7:30 Flood and Erosion Commission meeting.

1. Gwen Noto, 192 Lalley Blvd. was present to request a scout overnight campout to take place Sat/Sun. Oct 8/9 at Jennings Beach. A bonfire was requested as well. Barbara Rifkin *moved*, and Robert McMaster *seconded* to approve the request. A. Mullady *moved* and B. Seirup seconded to amend the request to a two day event as it read incorrectly on the agenda. *The amended motion passed unanimously.*

2. Paul Coudert was represented by Paul Osborne of 176 Euclid Ave. who requested a scout overnight campout to take place Sat/Sun. Oct 15/16 at Jennings Beach. A bonfire was requested as well. Barbara Rifkin *moved*, and Jack Tetreau *seconded* to approve the request. A. Mullady *moved* and B. Seirup seconded to amend the request to a two day event as it read incorrectly on the agenda. *The amended motion passed unanimously.*

3. Fairfield Police Dept. requested permission to use the Sherman Green on Thursday, Oct. 20 for a rally against Domestic Violence. Barbara Rifkin *moved*, and Jack Tetreau *seconded* to approve the request. *Motion passed unanimously.*

4. Kevin Simmons of Wakeman Boys and Girls Club was represented by Kait Herman who requested permission to hold their annual "Freezin' For a Reason" at Jennings Beach on February 11, 2012 (a corrected letter was sent to the Chairman). Barbara Rifkin *moved*, and Jack Tetreau *seconded* to approve the request. *Motion passed unanimously.*

5. Jane Miraval, 103 Old Farm Ln. was not present however G. Lombardo urged approval for the Delta Zeta Sorority's request for two Arts & Craft Fairs at Sherman Green to be held on April 28 and Sept 1, 2012 as it is a repeat event. Barbara Rifkin moved, and Robert McMaster seconded to approve the requests. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Pastor, Fr. Guido Montanaro was present with Ken Elwood, Carnival Chairman, as they requested permission to hold the 21st annual Holy Family Parish Carnival at Jennings Beach on May 17-20, 2012 with setup beginning on the 14th and break down on May 21st. It was explained that there is no longer a school associated with Holy Family and all proceeds would benefit the Parish. Barbara Rifkin moved, and Jack Tetreau seconded to approve the request. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Carolyn Slupczewski of the March of Dimes was unable to attend, however G. Lombardo urged approval of the request to hold a Walk from Penfield Pavilion on May 5, 2012. G. Lombardo explained that they had rented the pavilion for the day so no rental revenue would be lost. J. Tetreau moved, and B. Rifkin seconded to approve the request. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Steve Lobdell, 69 Beverly Ln. representing the Fairfield Firefighters was present to request the two days of races on June 23 & 24, 2012 benefitting many good charities. The events leave from Jennings Beach and Mr. Lobdell also asked for the parking fees to be waived until specified times each day for the racers. B. Seirup moved, and Jack Tetreau seconded to approve the request. Motion passed unanimously.

9. State Rep. Kim Fawcett sent correspondence however was not present for the discussion regarding her request that the newly renovated Pavilion banquet room be opened to the public throughout the beach days and perhaps add couches or game tables for use by the general public. After discussion and input from Paul Trupp, Penfield Dir., about the difficult maintenance of the room and the fact that it is going to be a matter of changing what the public has become accustomed to for many years, they chose not to open the room as they felt that sand and "wandering children with ice cream" would not be ideal for the new room which needs to be rented in the evening hours. The Commission did not take any action on this request.

III. PUBLIC INPUT – None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. **To hear and/or act upon the Beach Sticker Age Requirement** – Chairman Plotkin stated that he asked that this topic be discussed after he spoke to an employed, spry neighbor who told him about receiving a free beach sticker since they had reached the age of 62. It made him think that 62 was now a fairly "young age." Considering that the Town is always looking for ways to raise revenue, he suggested that the Commission discuss increasing the age to 65. S. Kiraly was present and provided information as to how many people that would impact (see attached) and what type of revenue the Town would see. If the Commission went in this direction, her suggestion was to grandfather those between 62 and 64. In the coming years the Town would see approximately \$8K a year and close to \$30K a year after the grandfathering is completed. G. Lombardo also mentioned that other areas in Town; Penfield Lockers, the Golf Courses, Fitness Center would need to be included as he felt it should be a uniform age. Bob Seirup disagreed with raising the age and presented thoughts on ways to bring in more revenue without increasing the age for a free sticker (see attached). Another suggestion by S. Kiraly was to limit the number of cars for which a senior citizen could receive a free sticker. There was a lengthy conversation, and it was decided that there should be a sub-ctte. to study the issue and report back to the Commission. B. Nerreau, B. Seirup and A. Mullady will comprise that committee. G. Lombardo also felt that they should attend the next Golf Commission meeting on Oct. 17 to present their findings so that all are on the same page. S. Kiraly also presented the Commission with an end of season report on Beach Sticker and Lake revenue (see attached). Mr. Lombardo added that other considerations are to keep a parking attendant at Penfield and Jennings until 8pm to collect daily fees rather than 6pm. He also added that they are looking at charging for parking at Ash Creek Open Space as it has become a location that people park and walk from so they do not need to pay the daily fee at the Jennings gate. The sub-ctte. will take these reports and suggestions into consideration when they meet.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

1. **To hear an update report on Gould Manor Field:** G. Lombardo reported that Gould Manor field is moving along and they hope to seed within three weeks. The Parsells property for the Girls field should get started in a few weeks.

2. **To hear an update report on the Penfield Renovation Project Report:** No report more than has already been discussed.

3. **To hear an update report on Tennis Center Renovation Plan Report:** Gerald Lombardo reported that this project is moving forward and they are waiting for the final contracts to be signed. They hope to break ground in October. When asked by Brian Nerreau if the small parking will still remain in use during the construction, he was told that the whole lot will be closed. Mr. Lombardo added that Fairfield Indoor Tennis would prefer that there be no parking along the street after the project is completed and that everyone park in the large lot along So. Pine Creek Rd.

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 that the Bd. of Finance requires that the Commission turns over any revenue over \$200K on Oct 1 to the General Fund. He distributed his estimate of \$47K to the Commission (see attached). He foresees other expenditures down the road such as new carpeting for the Recreation building or at least Fitness Center and is getting quotes now. B. Rifkin and A. Mullady both wanted to know if it would be worth investigating non-carpet or perhaps rubber flooring for fewer allergens. S. Kiraly will get prices and lifespan for both but feels it will be cost prohibitive. G. Lombardo reported that next month he would like to revisit the No Smoking on the Beach as it was only a 1 year rule. He stated that he had no complaints but was not sure if it was something that could extend to all beaches as most are not as large as Jennings Beach. The sub-ctte. made up of B. Nerreau, B. Rifkin and E. Plotkin will meet again and make a recommendation next month. E. Plotkin mentioned that he has again heard that users are not complying with the Skate Park Rules. G. Lombardo will make more frequent visits during after-school hours.

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 8:45 p.m. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Ryan, Recording Secretary