

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes of October 19, 2011

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Fairfield was held on Wednesday, October 19, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Eunice Postol Parks & Recreation Center, 75 Mill Plain Road, Fairfield, Connecticut 06824.

PRESENT: Ellery Plotkin, Chairman; Brian Nerreau; Barbara Rifkin; Robert Seirup; John Mitola; Alexa Mullady and Jack Tetreau.

ABSENT: Dante Gallucci and Robert McMaster

ALSO PRESENT: S. Kiraly, Asst Director of Parks and Recreation.

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

I. **Act on Minutes of Sept. 21, 2011:** Jack Tetreau *moved*, and Bob Seirup *seconded* to approve the meeting minutes as written. **In Favor:** Ellery Plotkin; Robert Seirup; Alexa Mullady; Brian Nerreau; Jack Tetreau **Opposed:** (None). **Abstention:** John Mitola *Motion passes 5-0-1.*

II. COMMUNICATIONS:

1. **Greens Farms Plant Sale -Carol MacDonald,** Ms. MacDonald, (1236 Hulls Hwy) asked that they have permission to use the Sherman Green on Sat., May 19, 2012 from 8am-2pm. J. Tetreau *moved*, and B. Nerreau *seconded* to approve the request. *Motion passed unanimously.*

2. **Bike the Beach-David Hochberg,** representing the Probus Club, asked for permission to use Jennings Beach lot for their annual event on Sun., Sept. 23, 2012. Barbara Rifkin *moved*, and Robert Seirup *seconded* to approve the request. *Motion passed unanimously.*

3. **CT Challenge Paddle Board Event-** Patrick Neary, (201 Jeniford Rd.) representing himself and David Keith, asked for permission to hold their 3rd annual event leaving from and returning to Penfield Beach for 6.5 miles on Sept. 15, 2012. They will contact the Coast Guard and Fairfield Marine Division. B. Nerreau *moved*, and J. Tetreau *seconded* to approve the request. *Motion passed unanimously.*

4. **CancerCare Walk/Run for Hope-** Sandra Tripoldi, asked for permission to use Jennings Beach lot for their annual event on Sun., Sept. 9, 2012. Barbara Rifkin *moved*, and Jack Tetreau *seconded* to approve the request. *Motion passed unanimously.*

5. **Women's Par 3 9-hole League-** Peg Clark (855 Bronson Rd.) was present to discuss her letter requesting that the Commission consider the league when they are creating space in the new facility. Presently, the 120 person league has a bulletin board on which to post news and scores, etc. and they will require something of the same nature. She added, "We need space, not just a closet". S. Kiraly reported that she had spoken to Mr. Lombardo about this and he will not be able to give them their own room but as the planning gets closer, he will sit down with them to discuss options.

6. **Bill Wargo,** (383 Riverside Dr).was present to discuss his letter to the Commission (see attached) outlining the issues that he feels need to be addressed with regards to the various asphalt Town tennis courts. The 3 major issues he highlighted are:

- The fencing does not go down far enough and the balls roll out from underneath. He feels that once the original work was completed that no one ever returned to check things out.
- All the nets are too low and now it's not an easy crank fix. You need special tools.
- The trees around the Tomlinson courts are sending droppings all over the courts. He suggests planting different trees and once they grow in you can remove the others so neighbors still have privacy.

Mr. Wargo believes that he has to continue to be a “squeaky wheel” or nothing will get done. He called in 2009, wrote an email in 2010 and now a letter in 2011. The Commission listened and took no action at this time.

III. PUBLIC INPUT – David Hochberg, (232 Church Hill Rd.) spoke as a beachgoer who is concerned about the dogs at the beach and the lack of signage. He asked if there is a fine for those who violate the rules. Joan Ryan stated that the fine is \$90. She added that the signs were taken or lost in Hurricane Irene and delivery of new signs is expected any day.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Dog/Horse Signage on Beaches – Chairman Plotkin let the Commission know that he has received some complaints from the neighbors regarding the same issue of signage as Mr. Hochberg just brought to their attention. He is pleased that the signs will be put up soon.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

1. To hear and/or vote on a Subcommittee Report re: Smoking at Town Beaches: Chairman Plotkin reported that the smoking sub-ctte. had spoken and recommends that the rule stating that Jennings Beach will be a non-smoking beach except in designated areas remain in place for one more year. They did not get much feedback this year. B. Nerreau reported about 90% compliance. Barbara Rifkin moved, and Jack Tetreau seconded to continue the non-smoking rule at Jennings Beach for one additional year and then revisit it again. The designated areas would also remain. Motion passed unanimously.

2. To hear an update report on the Boys/Girls Little League Fields: Sue Kiraly reported that Gould Manor field is moving along and one field has already been seeded. The house has been demolished at the Girl’s Softball field up at Hoyden’s Hill. B. Seirup suggested that it might be done for spring but Ms. Kiraly could not confirm that. Alexa Mullady remarked that she lives in the area and that neighbors are most concerned about the sharp turn on Morehouse Dr., adding that there are a lot of walkers on that road. She suggested a stop sign however it would be on the Easton side. Mr. Plotkin believed that the Police from adjacent Towns work together and something could be worked out if both agreed.

3. To hear an update report on Tennis Center Renovation Plan Report: In Gerald Lombardo’s absence, Joan Ryan reported that Mr. Lombardo has been in contact with Mr. Gocke and things are proceeding. Hopefully demolition will begin in mid-November.

4. To hear a sub-ctte. report on Beach Sticker Recommendations: E Plotkin stated that today the Commission would listen to the Sub-Ctte report but no vote would be taken. B. Seirup reported that he, Alexa Mullady and Brian Nerreau had met with staff and came up with several recommendations (see attached). He discussed each one by one. Mr. Seirup stated that after discussing whether or not to raise the age from 62 to 65 for a free Beach Sticker they agreed that they would prefer to see a \$10.00 sticker fee for all seniors 62 and older. Penfield beach would remain free for all residents. After hearing undertones of disappointment from the audience, Alexa Mullady remarked that the Committee had investigated providing one free sticker for each senior family but the software would make that very difficult to monitor. Presently, the Town sends out approximately 8600 free senior stickers and they do not feel that many seniors who have 4, 6, or 8 cars should be receiving all these free stickers. They suggested that many are probably being thrown away. The savings in postage could be significant. She concluded, stating that if they visit the beach 10 times then they have gone for \$1/day which they feel is very reasonable. Mr. Plotkin stated that it would be taken up again after the other Commission members had a chance to digest it. No action was taken.

VI. BD. OF EDUCATION REPORT: John Mitola reported that this will be his last meeting as he is no longer on the BOE. He thanked the Commission for understanding his absences and said that

he hoped to move on to the RTM where he is seeking election. The Commission thanked him for his input over the past year.

VII. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** No Report provided this evening.

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

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Commission, Jack Tetreau *moved*, and Barbara Rifkin *seconded* to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. *Motion passed unanimously.*