

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
Minutes of January 18, 2012

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Fairfield was held on Wednesday, January 18, 2012 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; Alexa Mullady; Jack Tetreau; Brian Nerreau and Jessica Gerber

ABSENT: Dante Gallucci

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

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

**I. Act on Minutes of December 14, 2011:** B. Rifkin *moved*, and J. Tetreau *seconded* to approve the meeting minutes as written. *Motion passes 5-0-1. Abstention:* B. Nereau (J. Gerber not yet present).

**II. COMMUNICATIONS:**

**1. Robert Seirup- PAL request for Sandcastle Contest- July 28/29, 2012-** Mr. Seirup requested permission to hold PAL's annual Sandcastle Contest at Penfield Beach on Sat July 28, with a raindate of July 29.

B. Rifkin *moved*, and J. Tetreau *seconded* to approve the request.

*Motion passed 5-0-1 Mr. Seirup abstained.* (J. Gerber not yet present)

**2. Kelly Weldon – Duckie Derby May 16, 2012-** While Ms. Weldon was not present, Mr. Lombardo reported that this is a repeat event that runs smoothly and he recommended approval.

J. Tetreau *moved*, and B. Rifkin *seconded* to approve the request.

*Motion passed 6-0-0* (J. Gerber not yet present)

**3. Glenn Barnhard – Kiwanis Club, Triathlon Sept 30, 2012-** B. J. Perkins, 48 Loundsbury Rd. was present to represent Kiwanis and stated that the club, the 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman and the Fairfield Police had come to an agreement that for safety reasons, rather than a Triathlon, they would like to host a Swim/Run event rather than a triathlon. They will work on the route with the Police Dept.

B. Seirup *moved*, and B. Nerreau *seconded* to approve the request.

*Motion passed unanimously 7-0-0*

**4. Kathy McPadden- Change location of approved Memorial bench –** Mr. Lombardo explained that he had spoken to Marina Mgr., Robin Bimmel after the last meeting and they visited the Ye Yacht Yard location. Ms. McPadden then took another visit there with Robin Bimmel and both agreed upon a suitable location. Mr. Lombardo showed the location on a map provided by B. Seirup.

A. Mullady *moved*, and B. Rifkin *seconded* to accept the Ye Yacht Yard location agreed upon by G. Lombardo, Robin Bimmel and Ms. McPadden. *Motion passed unanimously.*

**III. PUBLIC INPUT -**

Alan Hale, 239 Edwards St, asked for information regarding the Ice Skate Rink that he had read about in the Town's newspapers. Chairman Plotkin explained that at this point the proposal is only in the discussion stage and no request for funding has been made. Mr. Hale asked that they "think about saying no to someone before another burden is put on taxpayers such as the Girl's Softball field and the Metro train station that were recently approved". Mr. Plotkin stated that during the proposal there was discussion as to whether revenues would pay for the plan. He imagines that it will continue to be discussed and he suggested keeping apprised of the topic thought the Golf Commission agendas.

#### IV. NEW BUSINESS

**1. Request for Ludlowe HS Baseball team–Windscreen and Fence Capping at Kiwanis Field–** Keith O'Rourke, 999 Meadow Ridge Rd. Shelton, Fairfield HS baseball coach and RLMS teacher was present with Katie Klein of Sports Image to request permission to place wind screening and fence capping at the Kiwanis Field. Mr. O'Rourke stated beautification, playability and safety as the three reasons for the request. Ms. Klein gave the members information about how her business works and that she raises the money for the project, (1,100 feet of fencing with the capping), pays for it through banner sponsorship then the following year, when she signs renewals with the sponsors, the Town and Ms. Klein will split the revenue. Some members were concerned about putting sponsorship up on Town Fields. Mr. Lombardo stated that this currently occurs only at the two Little League Fields (Mill Hill and Tunxis), with Pop Warner also having the bleachers with signage and Kiwanis has the scoreboard. Some asked about Warde HS field and Mr. O'Rourke responded that Warde has a temporary fenced field and that it is a home field which Ludlowe does not have. Installation was discussed and Mrs. Klein stated that she would have it installed, possibly with the help of the baseball team, since Mr. Lombardo could not guarantee DPW for such a job. Mr. O'Rourke explained that the team could remove it at the end of the fall season so it could be up for all groups that use the field after the HS baseball season concludes. Ms. Klein estimated that she would need to raise approx. \$9-11K. Mr. O'Rourke stated that The Recreation Dept. would receive the proceeds from the 50-50 proposition after the first year.

J. Tetreau moved, and B. Seirup *seconded* to approve the request for wind screening and fence capping at Kiwanis Field, with Sports Image obtaining the final approval for advertising from Gerry Lombardo.

*Motion passed 5-1-1 Chairman Plotkin Against-Ms. Mullady abstained after initially voting for the proposal (see below.)*

After further discussion, about the length of the contract, the Commission learned that Ms. Klein usually obtains a 3-year contract from her clients. The Commission was not sure that they wanted to commit to that length and Mr. Lombardo also wanted to have the Town Atty. look over the contract. They assured Ms. Klein that they wanted to work with her and that it may just need some fine tuning. She will attend next month's meeting but will get to work on raising money in the meantime in order to meet the Mid-March field opening that Mr. O'Rourke would like. Following this discussion, Ms. Mullady changed her vote to an abstention until she has more information regarding the contract.

#### V. OLD BUSINESS:

**1. To hear an update report on the Boys/Girls Little League Fields:** Mr. Lombardo reported that the Gould Manor fields have been sodded, however there are some low spots that need to be addressed. They have stopped work on the field for now until the warmer weather returns. B. Seirup reminded the Commission that he asked for signage and a newspaper article to let the community know that the work on the field is being done by Amer. Little League. J. Tetreau said that he had spoken to a representative but will approach them again.

Mr. Lombardo also reported that the Girl's softball field on the Parsell's property is 90% completed and will likely be ready for play in late summer. Work on the driveways still needs to be completed.

**2. To hear an update report on Tennis Center Renovation Plan Report:** Mr. Lombardo reported that nothing has progressed since last month but he is still hopeful for taking down the building by the end of February. Nancy LeGuere from the Women's Par 3 Golf League was present to remind the Commission that they require some sort of gathering area and bulletin board to put up league tournament news and scores. Mr. Lombardo replied that there will be no indoor facility this season and that after that there will be an all-purpose room. He told them that they would make every provision for them that they could when they begin the specific design of the rooms.

- VI. **BD. OF EDUCATION REPORT:** Jessica Gerber reported that on 1/10 Supt. Title made his budget presentation with a 2.6% increase over last year's request. Yesterday and tomorrow the Board held an open discussion forum with no Public comment. The Board will vote on 1/24 and send it onto the other Town bodies for approval
- VII. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Mr. Lombardo reported:
- He is meeting with Mr. Tetreau on Monday to fine tune the budget and to answer some of his questions. He will likely need to reduce the money for the Special Recreation transportation but he will make another pitch to keep it in the budget.
  - He will bring forth a request next month for a Stand-Up Paddle Board Concession at the Beach. It would be for rentals and lessons. Members of the Commission were concerned about the liability to the Town.
  - The Parks & Rec. Building/Fitness Center is getting a new boiler system for heat and hot water. Solar Panels will also be installed in the spring.
  - They are repainting some of the inside of the new Penfield Pavilion, wainscoting and doors as they are rather marked up. Washable paint will be used.
- VIII. **PROGRAM REPORT-** Mr. Lombardo reported that there would be a Family Fun Dance at Penfield Pavilion on Fri. 1/27.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before the Commission, B. Seirup *moved*, and B. Rifkin *seconded* to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. *Motion passed unanimously.*