

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
Minutes of March 21, 2012

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Fairfield was held on Wednesday, March 21, 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; Dante Gallucci; Robert Seirup; Alexa Mullady; Jack Tetreau; Brian Nerreau; Patti Dyer and Jessica Gerber

ABSENT: None

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

Chairman Plotkin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and introduced newly appointed member, Patti Dyer.

**I. Act on Minutes of February 15, 2012:** B. Nerreau *moved*, and J. Tetreau *seconded* to approve the meeting minutes as written.

*Motion passes 6-0-1. Abstention:* Patti Dyer D. Gallucci and J. Gerber not yet present

**II. COMMUNICATIONS:**

**1. Kelly Weldon – Duckie Derby Sales at Sherman Green – May 12, 2012**

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

*Motion passed 6-0-1 Abstention:* Patti Dyer D. Gallucci and J. Gerber not yet present

**2. Becky Burgeson, Trinity Baptist Church Easter Sunrise Service April 8, 2012**

B. Rifkin *moved*, and A. Mullady *seconded* to approve the attached request

*Motion passed 6-0-1 Abstention:* Patti Dyer D. Gallucci and J. Gerber not yet present

**3. Tom Wambach - Dogwood Festival May 11-13, 2012**

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

Motion passed unanimously 7-0-0 D. Gallucci and J. Gerber not yet present

**4. Joe Riccio – Christine’s Run – May 6, 2012, -Jennings Beach** This is the third year for this event for a Fairfield woman who was the aquatics director at the Bpt. YMCA. She passed away from cancer. When asked about distribution of the scholarships, Mr. Riccio explained to Ms. Dyer that the proceeds are placed in a restrictive account at the Bridgeport YMCA and are eligible for aquatic scholarships.

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

*Motion passed unanimously. 7-0-0* D. Gallucci and J. Gerber not yet present

**5. Christine Brown- St. Paul’s Episcopal Church – Summer Services** Linda Snelham-Moore, 442 Bronson Rd. was present to make the request. It is a repeat of past years.

B. Rifkin *moved*, and A. Mullady *seconded* to approve the attached request.

*Motion passed unanimously. 8-0-0* D. Gallucci not yet present.

**III. PUBLIC INPUT - Alexander (Sandy) Clarkson, 76 Shoreham Terr. –** Mr. Clarkson was present to speak to a letter (see attached) that he sent to the First Selectman disagreeing with the decision to charge handicapped residents for their beach stickers. He also felt that it was unfair to make this decision without having input from handicapped residents and felt that they should have been notified prior to the change. Both Mr. Seirup and Ms. Mullady addressed Mr. Clarkson, as members of the sub-committee that made this recommendation to the Commission. They understand his displeasure with their decision however they explained that in their deliberations, they believed that they were still providing a

free beach in Penfield. They also explained that they do publicize their meetings and sub-committee meetings but it would be too costly to notify everyone individually. They agreed that never did they feel that “preferred parking” was rational in their decision as was unfortunately explained to Mr. Clarkson by a staff person in the Department. Mr. Clarkson explained that Penfield is too “busy and crowded” for his wife but he thanked them for their time in hearing his complaint and hoped that they might reconsider for next year.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Mr. William Coleman- West Cemetery on Post Rd.-** Mr. Coleman of 11 Overhill Rd. was present to ask permission to do some historical investigation into the headstones and graves at the West cemetery. He gave a history of the cemetery and thought that the responsibility for the cemetery rested on this Commission. Mr. Plotkin explained that the upkeep of the cemetery rests with the Commission. Ms. Mullady explained that the headstones are the responsibility of the families, though those family members may no longer exist or be in the area. Mr. Gallucci summarized that Mr. Coleman felt that he spoke for the Commission when he said that they are interested in this project and that if Mr. Coleman does this historical investigation through the Town Clerk’s office, it will not be in vain.

B. Rifkin *moved*, and D. Gallucci *seconded* to give a “Sense of the Body” approval to this project.

*Motion passed unanimously. 9-0-0*

**2. Southport Beach Concession- Request to place a Food Truck at Site –** Mr. Lombardo explained that Hunter King who won this concession bid for the first time, had asked him to place a truck along the street at Southport beach. After further inquiry, Mr. Lombardo learned that he does not yet own a truck. Mr. Lombardo advised him to do the Concession for one year, and then revisit this request in the future. **No Action was taken.**

#### **V. OLD BUSINESS:**

**1. To hear or take action on a 24-hr Baseball Fundraiser at Haydon Field –** Joe Mancini of American Little League was present to let the Commission know that a postcard (see attached) was sent to all neighbors of Haydon Field (about 650), and though the email address was not correct, they only received one email (see attached). The members were hoping for a dialogue between the neighbors and the Leagues however no neighbors came to the meeting. D. Gallucci explained that while he was going to abstain he wanted to summarize that he feels the lights are the only drawback to this event. All seem to agree that the “cause” is right.

B. Seirup stated that while he commends the idea the Commission has to think of the precedent that an approval would set and he cannot support it.

Patti Dyer asked about parking and was assured that all the participants would not be there at the same time and would be staggered for play. When asked about choosing the recipients for the donations, members were told that the young players would mirror an adult board and would make the recipient choices as well as the presentations. They want the children to learn all aspects of the project. E. Plotkin said he is sympathetic to B. Seirup’s concern about setting precedents and while he is concerned for the neighbors, he would like to give this a try and reevaluate it after the event.

J. Tetreau *moved*, and B. Rifkin *seconded* to approve the 24-hour Baseball Marathon at Haydon Field, understanding that it would be evaluated following the event and prior to any other future approvals.

*Motion passed 6-1-2 B. Seirup opposed, D. Gallucci and P. Dyer abstained.*

**2. To hear and/or take action on Skate Park Issues.** Ellery Plotkin suggested taking this item at the end of the meeting.

B. Seirup *moved*, and A. Mullady *seconded* to move the Skate Park Item to the end of the meeting.

*Motion passed unanimously 9-0-0 See last item.*

**3. Paddle Board Concession Request –** The Commission was provided a copy of the proposed bid for a Paddleboard Concession. S. Kiraly stated, in Mr. Lombardo’s absence, that they originally had three groups express interest in a concession of this type. She explained that if approved, it would be situated on the west end of Jennings Beach, closest to the Private Fairfield Beach Club. A. Mullady had several



B. Seirup wanted to caution the Commission from making a “knee jerk” reaction and creating more rules that cannot be enforced. He also agreed that there should be a fee charged and it should be somewhere between \$100 and \$200 a season with IDs that would be kept until a skater was done skating for the day. *B. Rifkin moved*, and A. Mullady *seconded* to shut down the Skate Park as quickly as G. Lombardo and R. White can feasibly do so, and to place this item on next month’s agenda in order to work out the specifics of reopening it.

*Motion passed unanimously 9-0-0*

The Commission asked for a copy of the rules for the next meeting as well as information as to how other towns run their Skate parks.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before the Commission, B. Seirup *moved*, and B. Nerreau *seconded* to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

*Motion passed unanimously.*