

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes of April 25, 2012

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Fairfield was held on Wednesday, April 25, 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; Patti Dyer and Jessica Gerber

ABSENT: Dante Gallucci

ALSO PRESENT: Gerry Lombardo, Dir., Parks & Recreation; R. White, Dir. Public Works

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

I. Act on Minutes of March 21, 2012: A. Mullady *moved*, and J. Tetreau *seconded* to approve the meeting minutes as written.

Motion passes 7-0-0. J. Gerber not yet present

Act on Minutes of March 29, 2012: B. Rifkin *moved*, and B. Nerreau *seconded* to approve the meeting minutes as written.

Motion passes 6-0-1. **Abstention:** B. Seirup J. Gerber not yet present

II. COMMUNICATIONS:

- 1. Chamber of Commerce – Summer Sidewalk Sales at Sherman Green – May 12, 2012**
Trick or Treat for Safety St. – Sherman Green - Oct 31, 2012
Santa’s Visit- Sherman Green – Nov 24, 2012

J. Tetreau *moved*, and B. Rifkin *seconded* to approve all three events as requested.

Motion passed 7-0-0 J. Gerber not yet present

2. Rabbi Satlow- Congregation Beth El- Friday Summer Services June-Aug, 2012

This is the 6th year of the Friday evening services and the 25 Limited Parking Passes will be used again.

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

Motion passed 7-0-0 J. Gerber not yet present

3. Dr. Peter Shirmann- National Day of Prayer- Sherman Green - May 3, 2012 Rick Coombs of 360 Hunyadi Ave was present to make the request.

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

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

4. Michael & Susan LaBella- The Gavin Project- Mr. & Mrs. LaBella- 200 Fogg Wood Rd. were present to let the Commission know of a project they have started in memory of their 15 mo. old son Gavin who recently passed away. To honor Gavin’s memory they would like to put a bench at the Sandcastle Playground as well as being to raise funds for any renovations or new equipments at Town Parks and Playgrounds.

J. Tetreau *moved*, and B. Seirup *seconded* to approve the bench request and suggested that further projects be done in cooperation with Mr. Lombardo who will let them know where there is need.

Motion passed unanimously. 7-0-0 not yet present

5. United Illuminating – Electric Car Event- Sherman Green - June 1& 2, 2012 – G. Lombardo spoke on behalf of Ed. Boman from the Public Works Dept who handles Energy Savings programs for the Town. The event will use the Gazebo and Green and a few parking spaces that have been reserved through the Econ. Dev. Dept.

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

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

6. Jeremy Britain- Bike Event for Suicide Prevention- Request Withdrawn – No Action Taken

7. Sarah Reilly- 119 Palamar Dr. – Sarah Reilly was present to express an interest in raising money for some new equipment at Highwood Park and she hopes to do that through sales of water and homemade cupcakes at the Little League games that take place at the field. G. Lombardo stated that he met with Sarah and her mother at the park and there are 2 specific pieces of equipment that need to be replaced at \$1500 each. He will pay for and install those pieces in advance and then Sarah can make donations to defray the cost through her bake sales. He also suggested that the LaBellas (see above) and Sarah collaborate if at all possible. B. Nereau suggested that there may even be a possibility of SPARK funds. A. Mullady commended Sarah on her initiative and maturity and suggested that Sarah contact Little League in order to be sure that there are no conflicts with concessions that they may have. Mr. LaBella stated that he is also involved with Little League and will be happy to reach out to them to encourage sales.

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

Motion passed unanimously 8-0-0.

8. Mary von Conta - Update on Lower Wharf Project- A letter from the DEP regarding the project was put into the record as an informational communication to keep the Commissioners up to date.

No Action was taken.

III. PUBLIC INPUT – Rabbi Satlow, 1200 Fairfield Woods Rd. commended the Parks & Recreation Dept. for their wonderful programs and also asked if they could encourage the Chamber of Commerce to investigate using a reduced Post Rd. driving area during the Trick or Treat for Safety St. as it is becoming such a popular event that it presents a safety concern to the participants.

Chairman Plotkin let the Commission know that he has been receiving some complaints from seniors regarding the Charge for the Beach/Dump Passes. It will be reviewed after the season.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. To Hear and Act upon a Request from the Penfield Building Ctte. for the approval of \$25K for berm construction – Jim Gallagher of the Penfield Bldg. Ctte. along with Rich White of DPW were both on hand to explain the plans for the parking lots as well as the berm surrounding the pavilion. The berm will take the place of the concrete barriers and will be a wooden bulkhead structure that will surround the deck to prevent flooding of the deck/building as well as the neighborhood. Mr. Gallagher explained the budget and grants from State for the building but, in order to do all the necessary work, they are requesting \$25K from the Revolving Fund. The target date for completion is on or around Memorial Day weekend.

Mr. Lombardo let the Commission know that the funds were available.

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

Motion passed 6-0-2. (P. Dyer and E. Plotkin abstained as they were members of the Bldg. Ctte.)

V. OLD BUSINESS:

1. 2. To hear and/or take action on Skate Park Issues – G. Lombardo reported that since the last meeting he has had the Skate Park open only under supervision. The use had definitely dropped with only 15 users per day. He added that they are not getting the same crowd that was there before, mostly younger users, probably because it's being supervised and rules are being enforced. Supervisors will be providing not only a daily attendance, but an hourly one so that if the Commission chooses to adjust hours, they can do so according to usage. Mr. Lombardo proposes no daily fee but if the Commission would like, a yearly membership pass can be crafted in some fashion. He suggested perhaps \$100 for Res./\$150 for Non-Res. He added though that he does not want to further decrease attendance. B. Rifkin commented that she feels the users should have some sort of accountability and that the fee would not be merely for recouping the attendant's salary.

A discussion about the entrances and fencing took place and Mr. Lombardo explained that fence work is expensive and he does not want to work on closing the three other entrances if the Commission is then

going to request that the fence be heightened. Chairman Plotkin suggested a sub-committee to iron out the details and bring them back for discussion and/or approval. J. Tetreau, A. Mullady and E. Plotkin volunteered for that committee. Mr. Plotkin also suggested that perhaps some of the Skateboarders might want to give their input.

3. Paddle Board Concession Request – Mr. Lombardo explained to the Commission that there were a few inquiries for setting up a Lesson/Rental Paddleboard concession. The suggested bid is the same one that was approved last year for the Kayak Concession that never went further than inquiries due to the high insurance required. If approved, he will put this out to bid and see if they have any interest. The Waterfront Dir. has suggested that they have a motorized vehicle such as a jet ski for rescue. Mr. Lombardo suggested that the age for participants could be set by the Commission.

B. Seirup *moved*, and P. Dyer *seconded* to give the Dir. authorization to go out to bid for a Paddleboard Concession.

Motion passed 7-1-0. (A. Mullady voted against)

4. To hear an update report on the Boys/Girls Little League Fields: Mr. Lombardo reported that the two Gould Manor fields are near completion and will hopefully be open for the League's Opening Day on Apr 29. There are still some spots that need attention. The Girls' field is planned for a Fall opening. He added that the area is really shaping up especially with the work being done at the Driving Range.

5. To hear an update report on Tennis Center Renovation Plan Report: Mr. Lombardo reported that they hope to start demolition on or about June. 1. Financing from the bank has been holding up the start.

V. BD. OF EDUCATION REPORT: Jessica Gerber reported that the Board approved naming the Fairfield Woods School Fitness Center after Ray Agostino and that HS Graduations will take place on 6/21. Other graduations have not yet been set.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT: G. Lombardo reported that he went before the RTM during the Budget process. They addressed the charge for Senior stickers and asked that it be reviewed after the season. He mentioned that the main concern was paying the \$10 for dump entry and then being required to pay for dumping once they gain entrance.

Mr. Lombardo also let the Commission know about the work being done at Lake Mohegan and encouraged them to visit. All the bathrooms have been renovated and the Lake area is now completely ADA compliant, all through an Econ. Dev. Grant. They will address the Jennings Pavilion/restroom area next. Mr. Plotkin suggested a summer meeting at the Lake to show the work done.

VII. PROGRAM REPORT- The registration for Summer Programs such as swimming, sailing and tennis is taking place on Wed, May 2 at 9am.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Commission, B. Seirup *moved*, and A. Mullady *seconded* to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.