

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
Minutes of May 16, 2012

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Fairfield was held on Wednesday, May 16, 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; Patti Dyer and Jessica Gerber

ABSENT: Dante Gallucci and Brian Nerreau;

ALSO PRESENT: Gerry Lombardo, Dir., Parks & Recreation

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

**I. Act on Minutes of April 25, 2012:** B. Rifkin *moved*, and J. Tetreau *seconded* to approve the meeting minutes as written.

Motion passes 6-0-0. J. Gerber not yet present

**II. COMMUNICATIONS:**

**1. Tom Keane- Comm. John Barry Day- Perry Green -Sept 15, 2012.** Mr. Keane was not present but Mr. Lombardo stated that this was a recurring event with no problems.

B. Rifkin *moved*, and J. Tetreau *seconded* to approve the event as requested.

Motion passed 6-0-0 J. Gerber not yet present

**2. Alvin Prusoff- Jr. Babe Ruth League – 880 Old Post Rd.** Mr. Prusoff was present to request a field for their District Tournament June 29-July 8. Mr. Lombardo stated that S. Kiraly would work with Mr. Prusoff to arrange a field although it likely would be Tunxis and not Kiwanis.

J. Tetreau *moved*, and A. Mullady *seconded* to approve the request.

Motion passed 7-0-0

**3. Jim Patterson – Cub Scout Pack 197 – Campout and bonfire at Jennings Beach on Oct 20, 2012**

Mr. Patterson was not present, however, J. Ryan explained that the scouts had just had a successful campout at the Lake and would like to try Jennings Beach in the fall. Ms. Gerber asked about campouts on the beach and was told that this is a specific privilege afforded to scouts who are trying to get badges.

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

Motion passed unanimously 7-0-0.

**4. Scott Walker- All Star Girls Softball Tournaments- 385 Oldfield Rd.-** Mr. Walker apologized for the late request but they were just called when Black Rock backed out as hosts. Mr. Walker distributed a handout explaining each game and field proposal. Mr. Lombardo stated that Tuesdays would be difficult due to numerous rainouts for the adult league but if approved, S. Kiraly would work with Mr. Walker to arrange fields.

J. Tetreau *moved*, and A. Mullady *seconded* to approve the request with the understanding that the league would abide by whatever fields S. Kiraly obtains for them.

Motion passed unanimously. 7-0-0

**5. Jeremy Britain- Bike Event for Suicide Prevention- 30 Oriole Ln, Trumbull** was present to request the use of Penfield Lot to start their yearly race. They have previously left from the bike store in the Brick Walk. They will provide insurance through the Amer. Foundation for Suicide Prevention. They will be renting the Penfield Pavilion for inside use as well. Mr. Lombardo assured the Commission that this is a ride and not a race and there will be a police escort for the first part of each ride.

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

Motion passed unanimously 7-0-0.

## **6. Natalia Zhiltsova/Mary Quinn – Pet Adoption Event – Withdrawn until Next Month**

### **III. PUBLIC INPUT – PAL Fishing Derby -B. Seirup asked to add a request to the agenda**

A. Mullady *moved*, and J. Tetreau *seconded* to add a PAL request to the agenda.

Motion passed unanimously 7-0-0.

Mr. Seirup asked that the PAL Fall Fishing Derby which is usually in September be approved for an August 18 date at the pier near the Marina. He understands that this is during Beach Season but this is set for the running of the Snapper Blue fish. While Mr. Lombardo was hesitant to approve an event at this time, he felt that the location would not pose a problem and suggested approving it this year and see how it works.

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

Motion passed unanimously 7-0-0.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS – American Legion Baseball-** In response to some inquiries, Mr. Plotkin initiated a discussion regarding the policy of having 100% residency for AAU and Legion teams. Mr. Lombardo explained that in past years, the Legion team didn't have 100% residents and therefore could not get a blanket permit for fields. They chose not to play in Town. Now they have 100% residency and want their status back mid-season. Kiwanis is not available and that can't be changed. Mr. Lombardo will discuss this with S. Kiraly upon her return from vacation.

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

**1. To hear and/or take action on Skate Park Issues** – G. Lombardo reported that prior to this meeting they had had a Skate Park Sub-Ctte. meeting and that attendance has been dwindling to 10-15 users per day with the “open under supervision only” policy. This gives them apprehension about charging and reducing the use even further. Mr. Lombardo suggested keeping things as is, throughout the summer to see how it goes. He explained that Towns who were charging are now cutting back from that. Ms. Mullady asked if Mr. Lombardo could find out if the numbers for those towns are down or why they decided not to charge. Members asked that there be a Press Release to let parents know that the Park is now open only under supervision and that may give them more confidence in sending their children back to the park. Ms. Mullady explained that they had gone over the rules during the sub-ctte. meeting, making some suggestions and would send them out for everyone to review. Mr. Lombardo explained that they will not recoup the cost of supervision through the charging but that it would give the accountability that the members are looking for. A. Mullady asked that they have more discussion next month and also review things after the weather improves. No Action Was Taken.

**2. To hear an update report on the Boys/Girls Little League Fields:** Mr. Lombardo reported that the two Gould Manor fields had their Opening Day on Apr 29 however there is still work to be done at each of the fields before the Town will accept them and take them over and begin maintaining them. The Girls' field is still progressing and still on target for a planned Fall opening.

**3. To hear an update report on Tennis Center Renovation Plan Report:** - Mr. Lombardo reported that they were to have signed the contract today but that First Selectman Tetreau had not had an opportunity to review it. They will sign it next week. There will be a Pre-Planning meeting next week as well.

**V. BD. OF EDUCATION REPORT:** Jessica Gerber reported that the Bd. of Ed had had \$250K cut from their budget during the RTM process. Superintendent Title stated that they will make that cut with retirements and small adjustments. All Graduations for the Middle schools and High schools have been set.

**VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** G. Lombardo reported that he went before the RTM during the Budget process and nothing was cut from his budgets, however he believes that he will have to make some reductions to meet some of the \$800K cut in the Town's Contingency Fund. He will meet with the First

Selectman the following week. Mr. Lombardo reported that the work at Lake Mohegan was nearly complete and would like to have a ribbon cutting in the next week or two. The next project for handicapped accessibility will be at Jennings Beach. Mr. Lombardo reported that the work on the berm at Penfield will start in June. The parking lot will be done in a few weeks.

Mr. Plotkin asked that the next meeting be held at the Coast Guard House at So. Benson Marina

**VII. PROGRAM REPORT-** None

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before the Commission, B. Seirup *moved*, and J. Tetreau *seconded* to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

*Motion passed unanimously.*