

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
Minutes of June 20, 2012

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Fairfield was held on Wednesday, June 20, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the So. Benson Marina Coast Guard Building, Fairfield, Connecticut 06824.

PRESENT: Ellery Plotkin, Chairman; Barbara Rifkin; Robert Seirup; Alexa Mullady and Brian Nerreau  
ABSENT: Dante Gallucci; Jack Tetreau; Patti Dyer and Jessica Gerber  
ALSO PRESENT: Gerry Lombardo, Dir., Parks & Recreation

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

**I. Act on Minutes of May 16, 2012 (regular meeting):** A. Mullady *moved*, and B. Seirup *seconded* to approve the meeting minutes as written.

*Motion passes 4-0-1.* B. Nerreau Abstained

**Act on Minutes of May 16, 2012- Skate Park Sub-Ctte.:** A. Mullady *moved*, and E. Plotkin *seconded* to approve the meeting minutes as written.

*Motion passes 2-0-0.* J. Tetreau was only other member on sub-ctte.(not present).

**II. COMMUNICATIONS:**

**1. Gary MacNamara, Fairfield Police Dept.- Domestic Violence Vigil- Sherman Green–October 25, 2012.** Chief MacNamara was not present but Mr. Lombardo stated that this was a recurring event with no problems.

B. Nerreau *moved*, and A. Mullady *seconded* to approve the event as requested.

*Motion passed 5-0-0*

**2. Jennifer Neal Hoffman- McKinley School Carnival-(see letter request)** Ms. Hoffman explained that the carnival is the school's largest fundraiser and they have contracted Stewart Amusement as in the past. Mr. Lombardo stated that there were no issues this year and recommended approval.

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

*Motion passed 5-0-0*

**3. Jane Miraval – Delta Zeta Craft Fair- Sherman Green 4/27/2013 and 8/31/2013**

Ms. Miraval explained that all proceeds over the overhead go to charitable organizations. This is a recurring event and Mr. Lombardo recommended approval.

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

*Motion passed unanimously 5-0-0.*

**III. PUBLIC INPUT – None**

**IV. NEW BUSINESS – None**

**V. OLD BUSINESS:**

**1. To hear and/or take action on Skate Park Issues** –The Commission revisited the rules and signage for the Skate Park. At the May meeting Ms. Mullady had compiled all the rules that 5 neighboring Towns use at their Skate Parks (see attached). It was suggested at that meeting that they amend some of Fairfield's wording to be clearer or add some rules (see attached). The members decided not to charge right now but to wait and see how the attendance and behavior is when the park is open only when monitored. Summer Hours will be 10-7 and those can be adjusted as attendance warrants.

A. Mullady *moved to accept the revised rules with the deletion of # 1 and #3 until they see the summer attendance with the option to amend in the future*, and B. Nerreau *seconded* to approve the request.

*Motion passed unanimously 5-0-0.*

**2. To hear an update report on the Boys/Girls Little League Fields:** Mr. Lombardo reported that the two Gould Manor fields still have some field issues that they are working out with Little League. The Engineering Dept is involved. He added that the Town has still retained Little League's Bond until all the work is complete. B. Nerreau asked about replacement of the outside fences that are unsightly and Mr. Lombardo stated that he is working on alternative funding for that.

The Girls Softball field is moving along. Irrigation has been completed and it should be ready for September play.

**3. To hear an update report on Tennis Center Renovation Plan Report:** Mr. Lombardo reported that They had hoped to start remediation on the building but there was more asbestos, etc. than they expected and they are now looking into handling that.

#### **V. BD. OF EDUCATION REPORT:** No Report

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** G. Lombardo reported: that he understands that the L.L Baseball Marathon went well. He had no complaints.

- Mr. Lombardo let the Commission know that the LaBella family would like to amend their previous request for a plaque on a memorial bench. They would now like to place a picture of their son on a large rock between two benches. The Commission had no problem with this amendment. DPW will bring in a rock and the LaBellas will purchase the benches and the plaque.
- Mr. Lombardo explained that he has, at the request of the First Selectman, been making cuts in services that he feels will least affect the residents in order to makeup the contingency cut of \$850K. Between his recreation accounts and his golf accounts, he has been asked to cut \$53K. The reductions he made were to hours of operation at the Tennis Center; reducing an hour on weekends. Cutting back hours at the Boat houses and also reducing lifeguards at the smaller beaches. He is also taking away the Parking Attendant from Sasco and Southport beaches. The Police will enforce the parking rules. He also mentioned that he is cutting 1.5 staff position at Par 3 and 1 person at HSR. The Commissioners were not pleased about the cuts and that staff would have their hours reduced but felt Mr. Lombardo made logical choices in the cuts.
- Mr. Lombardo reviewed the latest beach Sticker report (see attached). Revenue has greatly increased. This spurred a conversation about the expense cuts vs. increased revenue. Mr. Plotkin stated that he may discuss the staff cuts with the First Selectman.
- Mr. Lombardo reviewed the Special Playground bussing situation and let the Commission know that he has come up with a solution by hiring GBTA busing for the 3 wheelchair bound children. It will only be \$100 per child.
- Mr. Lombardo reviewed the berm and parking lot that is being worked on at Penfield.

#### **VII. PROGRAM REPORT-** G. Lombardo reported:

- Beach Fest took place the previous Friday and went well 90% of the time but that later in the evening things deteriorated into a few late night incidents. The Department and Police will be deciding whether to end the event earlier in the future.
- Fireworks will take place on July 4 with a raindate of July 5.
- Playground training will take place the week of June 25 with programs starting the following week. Due to School building issues, they have had to move from Osborn Hill to FWMS and also from Dwight too Burr for the first session.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before the Commission, B. Seirup *moved*, and B. Rifkin *seconded* to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

*Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Ryan, Recording Secretary