

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes of August 28, 2012

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Fairfield was held on Tuesday, August 28, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at Lake Mohegan, Morehouse Hwy. Fairfield, Connecticut 06824.

PRESENT: Ellery Plotkin, Chairman; Barbara Rifkin; Dante Gallucci; Alexa Mullady; and Patti Dyer Robert Seirup; and Brian Nerreau

ABSENT: Jack Tetreau and Jessica Gerber

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Tetreau, First Selectman; Gerry Lombardo, Dir., Parks & Recreation and Richard White, Director, Public Works

Following the Public Hearing, Chairman Plotkin called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

I. Act on Minutes of July 18, 2012: B. Nerreau *moved*, and B. Seirup *seconded* to approve the meeting minutes as written. *Motion passes 4-0-3.* P. Dyer, D. Gallucci and A. Mullady Abstained

Presentation to Richard White - Chairman Plotkin, Mr. Lombardo and First Selectman Michael Tetreau thanked the retiring Rich White, Director of Public Works for his long service to the Town and presented him with a plaque.

II. COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Celebrate My Drive Event-Chris Lyddy- Deputy Chief of Police Lyddy was present to request the use of Sherman Green for a Distracted Driver's Event- on Sept. 15, 2012 from 10am-3pm

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

Motion passed unanimously

2. 5K & Half Marathon-Steve Lobdell, 69 Beverly Ln. representing the Fairfield Firefighters was present to request the two days of races on June 22 & 23, 2013 benefitting many good charities. The events leave from Jennings Beach and Mr. Lobdell also asked for the parking fees to be waived until specified times each day for the racers. There was discussion of beginning the race 15 minutes earlier but all agreed not to do so. Mr. Lobdell agreed to make good notification to the neighbors of the Half Marathon.

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

3. Kevin Simmons-Wakeman Boys and Girls Club – Mr. Simmons was present to request permission to hold their annual “Freezin’ for a Reason” fundraiser at Jennings Beach on February 23, 2013

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

Motion passed unanimously

III. PUBLIC INPUT – None

IV. NEW BUSINESS – 1. Chairman Plotkin shared a recent letter (see attached) from Mr. Stephen Stout regarding a film that he is producing. He is in need of some “seaside” items and is looking for permission to borrow some from Ye Yacht Yard. After discussion with Mr. Lombardo and Mr. White, the Commission agreed to let Mr. Lombardo handle the loaning of certain items as he deems appropriate.

2. Chairman Plotkin shared a Letter to The Editor in the Fairfield Citizen (Aug 24) from two RTM members regarding Lifeguard staffing at the end of the season. Mr. Plotkin read a response letter that he will send to the paper explaining that there are simply not enough guards available once colleges and HS sports begin. Mr. Lombardo checked with other Municipalities and they are also short staffed and have to close beaches. He will try next year to reduce swim areas and open at least one beach with lifeguards.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

1. To hear and act upon adding a regulation regarding Fish Entrails – A Public Hearing was held prior to the meeting, however no public came to be heard.

Sec 1 (d) No person shall engage in the cleaning of fish at South Benson Boat Basin and Ye Yacht Yard, including the docks and floats of said Boat Basin and Yard, including any boats while located within said Basin or docked at said Yard. **The throwing of fish entrails into the water is prohibited.**

B. Rifkin moved, and B. Seirup seconded to add “**The throwing of fish entrails into the water is prohibited.**” to the existing rule.

The Commission discussed the additional wording and agreed that rather than confuse users they should include the cleaning station information.

D. Gallucci moved and Br. Rifkin seconded to amend the wording by adding the following words after “Yard”, “except at designated fish cleaning stations”.

A. Mullady moved, and B. Rifkin seconded to amend Sec 1 (d) to read:

No person shall engage in the cleaning of fish at South Benson Boat Basin and Ye Yacht Yard, including the docks and floats of said Boat Basin and Yard, including any boats while located within said Basin or docked at said Yard, except at designated fish cleaning stations. The throwing of fish entrails into the water is prohibited.

Motion passed unanimously

2. To hear an update report on the Boys/Girls Little League Fields: Mr. Lombardo reported that the Gould Manor Field nearest to Crestwood Rd. has needed some work that is being paid for with the Bond that Little League gave the Town. It should be totally complete in 10 days. Mr. Lombardo reported that the Denise Dougiello Girls Softball field is almost complete however there was recent vandalism. Fortunately, it was not too damaging and will be fixed quickly. The fencing will be done in the next week or so and that should prevent further trespassing. He showed the Commission signs: one for the entrance will be purchased by Little League and two for directional purposes stating directions for the field, golf course and driving range which will be purchased by the Town. It will be ready for play in September however he believes that Little League will be holding off its use until the spring.

3. To hear and act upon approval of \$25K to remediate the Tennis Center Facility – Mr. Lombardo requested permission to use \$25K to help to defray the cost of removal of PCBs and asbestos that was found in the Beanery Building that Fairfield Indoor Tennis is rebuilding. Ms. Dyer was concerned that this request for financial assistance may not be the last and felt that the Town should get guarantees in writing. She added that she was not pleased that the Town was rushed into this agreement and now three years later the project has still not begun. Mr. Lombardo explained that the financing was difficult after the recession and added that the DEP came down with more stringent regulations. Some members felt that it would be important to approve the request so as not to cause the FIT to pull out of the agreement.

R. White added that FEMA is also coming out with very strict new regulations and it is important that they begin the project before these go into effect. Mr. Lombardo stated that he will ask that there be a written agreement.

B. Nerreau moved, and A. Mullady *seconded* to approve the expenditure of \$25,000 from the Revolving Fund toward the remediation of the Beanery Building.

Motion passed 6-1 P. Dyer Opposed.

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

VI. **DIRECTOR’S REPORT:** G. Lombardo reported:

- Little League was honored for their wonderful showing at the Little League World Series. They had a warm welcome back to Town at a “Day of Champions” honoring all the exceptional teams that did so well this summer, including the National League 10 and 11 year-old teams as well as the 12 year-old Girls’ Softball Team.
- The Department will be upgrading their Software on Sept. 10. It will include Recreation and Golf. He does expect there to be some glitches but hopes everyone will be patient while they work out the kinks.

VII. PROGRAM REPORT- G. Lombardo reported:

- Fairfield Teen Theatre presented an exceptional show this year and he urged the Commissioners to take advantage of the shows in the upcoming years as there is wonderful talent in Town.
- Summer programs were well received and the playgrounds had great feedback.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Ryan, Recording Secretary