

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
Minutes of December 12, 2012

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Fairfield was held on Wednesday, December 12, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the Eunice Postol Parks & Recreation Dept. Fairfield, Connecticut 06824.

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

ABSENT: none

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

Chairman Plotkin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**I. Act on Minutes of October 24, 2012:** B. Nerreau *moved*, and B. Seirup *seconded* to approve minutes of 10/24/12 as written. *Motion passes 6-0-1*. J. Tetreau abstained. B. Rifkin and P Dyer not present for vote.

Chairman Plotkin distributed the Standards of Conduct for all Boards and Commissions.

**II. COMMUNICATIONS:**

**1. Joe Riccio- Warren Street, St Pat's Race,** asked for permission to use Jennings Beach lot for their annual event on Sun., March 17, 2013, A. Mullady *moved* and J. Tetreau *seconded* to approve the request. *Motion passed unanimously*. (B. Rifkin not yet present).

**2. David Hochberg- Probus Club's Bike the Beach** asked for permission to use Jennings Beach lot for their annual event on Sun., September 22, 2013, J. Gerber *moved* and D. Gallucci *seconded* to approve the request. *Motion passed unanimously*. (B. Rifkin not yet present)

**3. Melanie Marks – Old Burying Ground Headstones-**Ms. Marks was present to request permission for the removal, repair and restoration of 4 headstones in the Old Burying Ground off Beach Road. She mentioned that she asked Judge Caruso if she could obtain blanket permission for this type of work but that request was declined so she will continue to come before the Commission each time work needs to be done and approved. B. Nerreau *moved* and J. Tetreau *seconded* to approve the request. *Motion passed unanimously*. (B. Rifkin not yet present)

**4. Kristen Masterson – Wedding Tent at Greenfield Hill Congregational Church -**Ms. Masterson and her fiancé Mark Mager were not present. No action was taken.

**5. Diane Bader – Memorial Bench Request –**Ms. Bader, 197 Southport Woods Rd. was present to request permission to have a Memorial Bench placed at Southport Harbor in memory of her fiancé Richard DiDonato who passed away recently. Mr. Lombardo reported that he had met with both Ms. Bader and Robin Bimmel and that they had found an appropriate location, though this may be the last bench that fits. A. Mullady *moved* and J. Gerber *seconded* to approve the request. *Motion passed unanimously* (B. Rifkin not yet present).

**III. PUBLIC INPUT –**Bruce Maddock 45 Phyfe Rd asked the status of the electricity at Docks F-I. There has been no power there for two weeks. . He contacted Mr. Bimmel who said that a wire needed to be replaced and that Yankee Electric was aware. Mr. Lombardo was unaware of this but will look into it and contact Mr. Maddock.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS –**

**1. To hear and act upon Beach Rates** – Mr. Lombardo distributed information to the members regarding rate comparisons with other Towns. His recommendation was to raise the bus rates to \$125 for those out of Town buses that come with camps, etc. They are now charged \$63 per busload. Members were not sure whether that was an appropriate charge. They want to know how many buses actually come to the beach each season. Mr. Lombardo will report next month.

A. Mullady *moved* and J. Tetreau *seconded* to table any action on this item until a date certain next month. *Motion passed unanimously.*

Ms. Mullady added that she is pleased that they instituted the Senior rate and that with over 6000 senior stickers sold, she was pleased that they didn't lose many due to the \$10 charge.

**2. To Transfer Approvals for Repeat Special Events to Director** – Mr. Lombardo asked the Commission if they would entertain letting him approve repeat special events rather than continue to have the applicants come before them each year. Most members thought that this was a reasonable idea as long as new applicants came before the Commission for a few years in order to be sure they were adhering to all the regulations and that there were no issues. Ms. Dyer disagreed and felt that it was important for the applicants to come to the Commission each year and this was not too much to ask. Mr. Lombardo assured the members that he would advise them monthly of any approvals that he made and that any changes to an event would necessitate an appearance before the Commission. It was thought that after three years, approval by the Director could be given.

J. Tetreau *moved* and B. Rifkin *seconded* to allow the Parks & Recreation Director to approve special events after those events have taken place for at least three years and have no substantial changes to the event. *Motion passed 8-1-0 (P. Dyer opposed).*

**3. To hear and act upon 2013-14 Budgets** –Mr. Lombardo distributed the preliminary budgets that he will present to the First Selectman:

*Penfield:* A 3% increase includes a \$3000 line item for Marketing Penfield banquet facilities. He is concerned with the loss of business at Penfield but they will recoup some of the lost revenue from Insurance. He has scheduled for a normal year with no cutbacks in summer staff as was the case last year.

*Parks & Recreation:* A reduction in budget by almost 2%. No substantive changes. Almost all programs are “pay to play” with the exception of Senior Fitness and Special Needs programs.

*Waterfront & Marina:* No Change from this years' budget. No cutbacks as was the case last year. All beaches will have Parking Attendants. D. Gallucci wanted assurance that no lifeguard hours would be cut. The postage line item was questioned and Mr. Lombardo will look into it and reduce it if he feels he can. P. Dyer asked about the trash on the beaches and Mr. Lombardo stated that DPW was looking into perhaps adding staff on at night in the early months before the Penfield staff goes on or increasing the number of barrels.

B. Nerreau *moved* and J. Tetreau *seconded* to approve the Penfield, Waterfront and Parks & Recreation budgets for 2013-14. *Motion passed unanimously.*

**4. Storm Damage Updates** – Mr. Lombardo distributed pictures (see attached) of Penfield as well as the Fishing pier and tennis courts at Owen Fish. He advised the Commission that Penfield is structurally damaged and will need extensive repair. He is not sure of the timeline or cost at this point. Joe Michelangelo will be handling the repair and approvals from Boards, etc. Mr. Lombardo added that both the Southport and Sasco Beach concessions are damaged and will need to be addressed. The Town has a deductible of \$500K per incident and the two main incidents are the pier and the Penfield Building. He will continue to keep the Commission apprised of progress on repairs.

## V. OLD BUSINESS:

**1. To hear an update report on the Boys/Girls Little League Fields:** Mr. Lombardo reported that the girls' softball field sustained slight damage to the fencing (10 sections needed to be replaced). Also a pine tree in center field will be taken down due to damaged that it sustained.

**2. To hear an update report on Tennis Center Renovation Plan Report:** Mr. Lombardo reported that the contract with FIT has been signed. The Town is clearing out the building and following all remediation, it will be taken down. He had a first meeting with the "team" from FIT along with several from the Town and they will continue to meet every two weeks throughout the project.

**3. Seasonal Ice Rink** – Mr. Lombardo reported that he had looked into a few options for purchasing an ice rink for the Town. Estimated costs are as follows:

60X90                    \$325K  
Ice Resurfacer \$16K  
+ installation

50X70                    \$275K  
Ice Resurfacer \$16K  
+ installation

85X200                  \$500K  
Zamboni                ??  
+ installation

He would like to put a sub-committee together to go visit locations, and gather information. Then it might possibly be ready for July or August to present to the Commission. Mr. Gallucci agreed that there is a need for the rink, that there are three options, to lease it, buy it or turn it over and have it run as a concession. He, Ms. Mullady and Mr. Plotkin all agreed to serve on a sub-committee.

**V. BD. OF EDUCATION REPORT:** J. Gerber reported that the BOE has elected Phil Dwyer as Chairman and Pam Iacono as Vice Chairman. They are still dealing with the costs of PCBs in Osborn Hill and now investigating whether they are in other schools. Hurricane Sandy displaced 30 families who are being bussed in from their out-of-district locations. They approved the Racial Imbalance Plan and will now have a Pre-K at Dwight School. They have changed the wording in the 2012-13 calendar to clarify the school days. They are, after 6 more days of lost school time, going to add up to 5 days to the end of June. After that they would have to look at April vacation. They approved the 2013-14 calendar. They approved a supplemental payment of \$820K for PCBs at Osborn Hill and now that goes to the BOS and then the RTM. There is great displeasure from some 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents with regard to the new Math curriculum. It's a work in progress.

**VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** G. Lombardo reported that in addition to his previous reports, he'll be meeting with the First Selectman on Jan 7 to go over his budgets.

**VII. PROGRAM REPORT-** Mr. Lombardo reported that the Department has had several successful events including the Tree Lighting, and he Holiday Breakfast. Youth and Adult Basketball are both underway. The staff is getting ready to put out the Spring Brochure for the Spring offerings.

**IX. Approve the 2013 Meeting Calendar:** B. Rifkin *moved* and B. Seirup *seconded* to accept the submitted meeting calendar for 2013 (see attached) *Motion passed unanimously.*

**X. Election of Officers for 2013:** Chairman Plotkin stated that while he has one year left on his appointment, he would like to step down but still remain available for a new Chairman.

E. Plotkin moved and B. Seirup seconded to nominate Dante Gallucci for Chairman for 2013. There was discussion as to whether or not Mr. Gallucci wanted to assume the position. He stated that he would like to do it for the remaining year that he has left on the Commission. When asked by Ms. Dyer if his commitments would allow him to attend the meetings, he stated that the only time that should prove a problem is during Warde Baseball season.

Motion passed 8-0-1 Mr. Gallucci abstained.

J. Tetreau moved and E. Plotkin seconded to nominate Brian Nerreau as Vice Chairman for 2013

Motion passed 8-0-1 Mr. Nerreau abstained.

E. Plotkin moved and J. Tetreau seconded to nominate Barbara Rifkin as Secretary for 2013.

Motion passed 8-0-1 Ms. Rifkin abstained.

Mr. Lombardo thanked Mr. Plotkin for his years of service to the Town and the Commission and for being so available to him throughout the years whenever he needed his assistance.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before the Commission, A. Mullady moved, and J. Tetreau seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joan Ryan, Recording Secretary