

DRAFT
TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes of March 20, 2013

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Fairfield was held on Wednesday, March 20, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Eunice Postol Parks & Recreation Dept. Fairfield, Connecticut 06824.

PRESENT: Dante Gallucci, Chairman; Patti Dyer and Robert Seirup Alexa Mullady; Jessica Gerber and Barbara Rifkin

ABSENT: Ellery Plotkin, Jack Tetreau and Brian Nerreau

ALSO PRESENT: Gerry Lombardo, Dir., Parks & Recreation; Joe Michelangelo, Dir., DPW

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

I. Act on Minutes of February 20, 2013: B. Rifkin *moved*, and A. Mullady *seconded* to approve minutes of February 20. *Motion passes unanimously.*

II. COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Rabbi Shlame Landa – Rabbi Landa of the Chabad of Fairfield, 36 Wynn Wood Rd was present to request Lake Mohegan on Sept. 22, 2013 for the Sukkot Festival. They will erect a small tent/booth and will expect approximately 100 people for food and music.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Steve Schwartz –Rage Baseball Fundraiser- Dave Peirpont, 82 Woods End Rd. was present to request field time at Kiwanis Field for a tournament fundraiser for the Rage AAU Baseball team on August 5-8 (8am to 7:20 pm.) He estimated that \$2500 will be raised through guest team registration and this will help defray the cost for Fairfield players to take part in this league. D. Gallucci stated that while this is a fundraiser, he feels it differs from previous requests because it is 100% Fairfield Residents who will benefit, explaining that it is no different than Babe Ruth having a tournament.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC INPUT – None

IV. NEW BUSINESS –

1. Southport Conservancy – Christopher Rosow and Jeremy Frost of the Southport Conservancy were present to give a short history of the organization and to request that the Commission allow them to become involved in the restoration of Ye Yacht Yard following Hurricane Sandy. A plan was shown. Mr. Lombardo explained that there have been two previous meetings with the First Selectman and Joe Michelangelo and all are in favor of the partnership. Mr. Michelangelo stated that he saw nothing that they are proposing concerning the grounds or the building that is not “do-able.” There was lengthy discussion as to what kind of involvement the Conservancy could or should have as well as discussion regarding the choice of a cedar roof which is more expensive and might last only half as long, 15 vs 30 years. Mr. Rosow explained that the cedar roof is more in keeping with the vintage look. Ms. Dyer expressed concern over

the roof as well as the idea of taking money from a neighborhood organization and whether the Town would lose control of projects. She stated that many neighborhoods might like to raise money and then “steer” certain projects. While members were in favor of the partnership they were concerned with the precedent it sets. Mr. Rosow and Mr. Frost were understanding but wanted to begin fundraising as soon as possible and were hoping not to delay another month.

Motion: A. Mullady *moved*, and B. Rifkin *seconded* to approve allowing the Southport Conservancy to act as consultants; with ideas, suggestions and research to help with the Town’s planned work to repair the damage to Ye Yacht Yard caused by Hurricane Sandy as well as to improve the property with an offer of certain financial contributions which will depend upon the Town’s budget, potential FEMA claims and Town approval.

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Marina Boat Slip Renewal Deadline Enforcement – Joe Michelangelo was present to explain the In-Water Boat Slip renewal process and that this year he has several people who have missed the deadline, and one person in particular is asking for an exception after receiving a renewal letter, a certified letter and a phone call. The Commission members were told that Rule 16-B states that such renewals must be received by Feb. 15 although the Department policy has historically been to give them until March 15. While the members understood the grace period, they felt that it put the Department in a difficult position, not adhering to the policy.

Motion: D. Gallucci *moved*, and J. Gerber *seconded* to instruct the Public Works Department not to make any exceptions past the March 15 extended deadline.

Following discussion this *motion was withdrawn* and the members decided to put this matter on next month’s agenda with the idea of changing the Rules and Regulations 16-B to read “not later than March 15.” This would then be a hard and fast rule that they must follow with no extensions or exceptions. The matter will be placed on next month’s agenda.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

1. To hear an update report on Storm Sandy Damage: Mr. Lombardo reported that both facilities at Sasco and Southport Beaches were damaged in the Storm. The previous buildings do not meet code and in order to reuse the buildings they will require \$34-40K for a concession/Lifeguard building. Since the Town only receives approx. \$800/season in rent it seems fiscally imprudent to rebuild at this time. There is an option to purchase a pre-fab building for \$15K for a small 12’x14’ Lifeguard/First-Aid building. If the Commission wanted food on the premises he could look into a food truck business. Mr. Gallucci stated that he would like to see food at the locations. In order to get going on the buildings, Mr. Lombardo asked for a sense of the body. All those present were in favor of the buildings but as Ms. Rifkin advised there could be different members next month who aren’t present now. Mr. Lombardo stated that the item will be on next month’s agenda.

Mr. Lombardo also reported that they are working with three consultants on Penfield Renovation; an oceanic Engineer, a Geo-Tech Engineering for the foundation, and a structural engineer for the beams, etc.

2. To hear and an update report from the Ice Rink Sub-Committee –The sub-committee has not yet met. No Report.

3. To hear an update report on Tennis Center Renovation Plan Report: Mr. Lombardo reported that FIT is going for their building permits and that now they have to raise the planned building 4 feet in order to meet a new code. The Town may provide some fill for the project.

V. BD. OF EDUCATION REPORT: J. Gerber reported:

- A mandatory Teacher/Admin. evaluation plan has been put into effect by the state. It will be quite time consuming.
- June 27th has been designated as the last day of school, pending no other snow days.
- The FLHS fixes of the window, and other renovations have been approved at a cost of over \$11 million. The roof was repaired immediately after the recent collapse from the wind.
- The window replacement at Osborn Hill has been approved.
- A presentation was given on the somewhat controversial new Math curriculum that is being proposed.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT: G. Lombardo reported:

- His Budget Hearing will take place on March 21. All are invited to attend.
- He has hired a new staff for the Tennis Center and has been investigating outsourcing the Summer Program to FIT that runs it during the winter. It would save \$51,400 \$34,000 in salaries, \$3000 in supplies and \$9300 in court maintenance. They would not take in the average \$37K in revenue. Jeff Gocke (FIT) has said that he might be willing to do it for \$30K. He will be sure that the Commission still sets rates and policy. Both the BOF and the RTM have asked for him to look into this. Mr. Lombardo will report on this next month. It's possible that FIT would put in the new lighting at the Tennis Center that was turned down by the BOF.
- Some decisions still need to be made regarding the Penfield Beach and he explained the options that he will explain during his Budget Hearing (see attached).
- Due to the loss of the building, the Concession is lost and they will need to decide how they'd like to proceed for the summer. It will take some planning to find a place to have a food truck or arrangement due to the need for water and electricity. He will of course offer Carlos Hernandez the right of first refusal if they go in that direction. Mr. Lombardo will keep the Commission informed.

VII. PROGRAM REPORT- None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Commission, A. Mullady *moved*, and B. Rifkin *seconded* to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.
Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Ryan, Recording Secretary