

DRAFT
TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes of April 24, 2013

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Fairfield was held on Wednesday, April 24, 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; Barbara Rifkin; Ellery Plotkin, Jack Tetreau and Brian Nerreau

ABSENT: None

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

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

I. Act on Minutes of March 20, 2013: B. Seirup *moved*, and P. Dyer *seconded* to approve minutes of March 20. *Motion passes 3-0-2*. B. Nerreau and J. Tetreau abstained (A. Mullady, B. Rifkin, J. Gerber and E. Plotkin were not yet present.)

II. COMMUNICATIONS:

Chairman Gallucci reported to the Commission that several events had been approved by the Director (see April Approved Events).

1. Mark Barnhart, Town Economic Development- Sidewalk Sales- July 27, 2013

Mr. Barnhart was present to request the use of Sherman Green for the Chamber of Commerce's Annual Sidewalk event. Mr. Barnhart mentioned that they are attempting to do a one day larger event rather than two days. They will eventually hope to close of the Post Road at points in future years and make it a true Street Fair possibly in coordination with the Town's 375th Anniversary next year. This year they will invite vendors, have music and use the Green.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Michael Kelly – Mr. Kelly of 36 Mohican Hill Rd was present to request permission to purchase a memorial bench at the marina in honor of his mother in law Mary O'Connor a long time resident. Mr. Lombardo stated that he and Robin Bimmel met with Mr. Kelly at the Marina and decided that a bench would go nicely along the new walkway that is being put in.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

3. William Coleman – Casket Verification at West Cemetery – Mr. Coleman of 11 Overhill Rd. was present to explain that he has interest in the West Cemetery on the Post Rd and he would like to have someone to probe the ground with a rod and learn whether or not there are still coffins remaining in the cemetery. If there are not, then the land becomes Public Land and can either be sold or developed into something else. After a short discussion, Mr. Gallucci asked Mr. Coleman to investigate the cost of such an investigation and to get back to Mr. Lombardo who will report to the Commission.

III. PUBLIC INPUT – Linda Crowley, 112 Lalley Blvd was present, as a member of Fair Acres, to discuss some issues that she feels need to be addressed at the Penfield area.

- Scattered Wood needs to be picked up
- A fence surrounding the dunes would be helpful
- Moving beach signs closer to the area where people will now enter the beach since the main building is closed.
- Trash Truck that picks up the dumpster is overly large for the driveway and continues to bump into the wood pilings.
- Deep gully alongside of the Jacky Durrell driveway needs to be filled in
- Possibility of putting up a chain gate along the driveway when the facility is not rented.

Chairman Gallucci asked Ms. Crowley to write something up for Mr. Lombardo and he will attempt to address those items as he sees fit.

IV. NEW BUSINESS –

1. Concession Buildings at Sasco and Southport Beaches –Mr. Lombardo reviewed his report of last month that he needed to replace the two buildings at Sasco and Southport for the Lifeguards and Restrooms. He does not however want to rebuild the concession buildings as it would not be cost effective for the Town. Each building would cost \$35-40K and the rent for each is usually only \$1000. He agrees with the Commission that he would like to ask that each of the Concessionaires be permitted to rent a vending truck and place it at the beaches.

Motion: E. Plotkin *moved*, and B. Rifkin *seconded* to ask the present concessions at both Southport and Sasco beaches to provide a food truck rather than replace those buildings and to purchase a lifeguard station building at each beach for approximately \$13-15K each.

Motion passed unanimously.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

1. To hear an update report on Storm Sandy Damage:

A) Penfield Mr. Lombardo reported that there was a meeting of FEMA, Town Insurance Co., Risk Mgmt., DPW and Town Engineers and they will meet again next week at the site to see all the damage that has been discussed and see what can be recouped. They are hoping that FEMA will help to pay a portion of the Town's \$500,000 responsibility.

Phase I See what the options are and make a choice

Phase II Design

Phase III Build

Mr. Lombardo has met with the Penfield Dir. and the Waterfront Dir. to see the best solution to housing the Lifeguards. They plan to use the Sail House at Jacky Durrell during the day. They will put up portable restrooms. He is deciding between separate ones and trailers of several. The Commission asked that they be cleaned every day.

B) Marina – They are dredging and bringing the nice sand to the top and putting the dredged sand underneath for Jennings bringing it back to Pre-Sandy elevations. They will work on Penfield next. They are working on a new walkway along the fishing pier. Nothing has been done yet at Ye Yacht Yard.

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 moving forward but they are having some issues with UI and whose meter is coming down. It should be resolved in a matter of days.

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

- The Pre-K through 2 Math Program was approved on April 9.

- Graduation for the High Schools will be June 20
- The BOF made a \$1.25 Million cut in the budget. The RTM has hinted that they may be making more cuts. The BOE vote will be on May 6 and they will allow Public Comment.
- US News & World Reports Voted Ludlowe HS # 11 and Warde # 20 in CT, a very insignificant difference. Both also were awarded additional honors, Top 1000 Nationally, Ludlowe was awarded a Gold Medal and Warde a Silver Medal.

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

- Budget Hearings were taking place and had been very long. Mr. Gallucci agreed that the process had become extremely arduous.
- He invited all to the Opening of the Girls' Softball Field on Sunday, April 28 at 2pm. Ellery Plotkin will be saying a few words and Chairman Gallucci will throw out a first pitch along with the Frist Selectman and Mr. Lombardo.

VII. PROGRAM REPORT- Mr. Lombardo reported that the Summer Brochure had just been mailed and that Summer hiring would take place over the next month.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Commission, B. Rifkin *moved*, and B. Seirup *seconded* to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Ryan, Recording Secretary