

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes of May 15, 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: Patti Dyer and Robert Seirup Alexa Mullady; Jessica Gerber; Barbara Rifkin; Ellery Plotkin, Jack Tetreau and Brian Nerreau

ABSENT: Dante Gallucci, Chairman

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

Vice Chairman B. Nerreau called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

I. Act on Minutes of April 24, 2013: J. Tetreau *moved*, and B. Rifkin *seconded* to approve minutes of April 24. *Motion passes 6-0 0.* (E. Plotkin and A. Mullady not yet present abstained).

II. COMMUNICATIONS:

1. World Artist Network - July 27, 2013 Brandon Bisceglia, 98 Kenwood Ave. was present to request two days, June 15 and August 10, 2013 for the use of Sherman Green for World Artist Network where artists will show their craft. This is the 3rd year for this event. It is a non- profit group.

Motion B. Rifkin *moved*, and J. Gerber *seconded* to approve the request.

Motion passed unanimously.

2. McKinley Carnival—Gene Hoffman, 118 Whitewood Dr. was present to request permission for the school to hold their annual event at Jennings Beach on April 24-27, 2014 with setup beginning on April 21. Although this is a longtime event, Mr. Lombardo brought it before the Commission in order to be sure that no one had heard any complaints from this year's carnival. No one had. It will be the same company again this year.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

3. William Lavin, N. J. Firefighters Playground Donation – A presentation was made by N.J firefighter, William Lavin stating that their Sandy Ground for Angels Project would like to donate to Fairfield one of 26 planned playgrounds, this one in honor of Jessica Rekos a young victim of the Sandy Hook School tragedy. Her mother attended Fairfield University and requested a beach location in Fairfield. The initial thought is to build it in the area of the Penfield swings in September sometime. After a lengthy presentation that the Commission looked upon favorably, they asked if Mr. Lavin could return on June 5 to make his presentation at a Public Hearing so that the neighbors can be made aware of their plan. The Commission will vote then. In the meantime, Mr. Lombardo stated that he would check to see if the Bd. of Selectmen wanted to take action on this as well. He had checked with the Zoning Dept. and they have no jurisdiction over it.

Motion: A. Mullady *moved*, and E. Plotkin *seconded* to postpone the item to a date certain of the next planned meeting on June 5.

Motion passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC INPUT – NONE

IV. NEW BUSINESS –

1. **Lou Scheuler – Community Sailing Informational Update** – Mr. Scheuler, 153 Dudley Dr. was present to give the Commission information on the Community Sailing Program, its beginnings in 1996 through to the present. He gave a copy of their handbook to the Secretary and explained that they own two Ideal 18 foot Sailboats as well as six kayaks that are used by the members of the group which boasts sixty families at the present time. Mr. Lombardo explained that they will be moving their dock down the road giving easier access to the L.I. Sound. Although they will no longer be formally under the auspices of the Parks & Recreation Commission but rather the Harbor Management Commission, they would still like to work collaboratively. Ms. Dyer asked about parking for the members stating that she had heard complaints in the past that some non-stickered cars were parking in the Ye Yacht Yard lot. Mr. Lombardo assured the members that there will be Police presence this year. The Commission appreciated the information. No Action was taken.

2. **Pop Warner – Non-Resident Ruling**-Lee Batista of Lake Ave. , Bridgeport was present to request that the Commission allow:

A) Non-resident Fairfield student athletes between 7 and 14 be permitted to play Pop Warner Football

B) Dependents of Non-Residents Town Employees be permitted to play Pop Warner Football.

C) Non-residents be permitted to fill out the rosters that are still short players.

Mr. Batista assured the Commission that they would not need added field space and that he sees a maximum of 10 to 15 additional players to a league of 200.

After lengthy discussion, most members felt that this opened a door that would then require them to accommodate all other leagues, including lacrosse that they had just recently, denied. Mr. Lombardo agreed that if the Commission permitted this league, all the rest would expect the same accommodation. He added that the numbers do not show that they even require the dedicated field that they are assigned now. A. Mullady asked if the members thought that Project Choice, could be permitted permission to play on Fairfield Teams, along with their fellow students. Mr. Lombardo stated that Sue Kiraly had recently come to him with some ideas for revamping the field allocation. All agreed that there should be a Field Committee to review this and come back to the Commission with a full update. B. Nerreau, J. Tetreau and P. Dyer all agreed to be on such a committee.

Motion: A. Mullady *moved*, and P. Dyer *seconded* to deny the request that Non-Residents be permitted to play on Pop Warner Teams.

Motion passed 7-0-1 (J. Tetreau abstained)

V. OLD BUSINESS:

1. **To hear an update report on Storm Sandy Damage:** G. Lombardo reported that estimates should be in by the end of the month. They have still not determined exactly how they are going to proceed with repairs. They will be placing Restroom Trailers at Penfield, one on each side. Carlos Hernandez the concessionaire is working to obtain a food truck.

The new sand work at Penfield should be done prior to Memorial Day weekend.

Regarding the Southport Concession, Hunter King, last year's concessionaire, has expressed an interest in buying the building for \$1 and in fact he has started a fund-raising campaign. He was sent a letter stating that before a building is sold they must go out to bid. He has been told that the building that he might place there must be mobile.

2. To hear and an update report from the Ice Rink Sub-Committee –The sub-committee has not yet met. Ms. Mullady asked that a sub-committee meeting be set in the near future.

3. To hear an update report on Tennis Center Renovation Plan Report: Mr. Lombardo reported that FIT should be tearing down the building next week.

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

- RTM Voted to cut \$½ million from the budget. Dr. Title will present his options for suggested cuts to the Board and the will vote on Tues May 21. Some ideas have been a “pay to play” for some HS sports including sailing, bowling, Hockey, Swim and Ski teams. The BOE is considering charging weekend OT for having custodians for all users.
- Several Principals are retiring and vacancies will need to be filled.
- They will hear a presentation about Grade 6-10 Math Curriculum and vote on May 21.
- They approved the draft of the teacher evaluation now State mandated.
- The decision on the FLHS renovations was delayed until next week in order to get some answers for the BOS. There is a June 30 deadline that must be met.

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

- Recreation Budgets were not affected by any cuts.
- The Summer Tennis Center has been leased to Fairfield Indoor Tennis and they will run it for the Town.
- Mr. Lombardo let the Commission know that Zach Hauser, son of a past Commission member, Gretchen Hauser passed way suddenly in California.

VII. PROGRAM REPORT- Mr. Lombardo reported that the 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 9:20 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Ryan, Recording Secretary