

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
Minutes of September 18, 2013

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Fairfield was held on Wednesday, September 18, 2013 at 7:00pm the Eunice Postol Parks & Recreation Dept. Fairfield, Connecticut 06824

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

ABSENT: Jack Tetreau and Brian Nerreau

ALSO PRESENT: Gerry Lombardo, Dir., Parks & Recreation; Public and Press

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

**I. Act on Minutes of August 21, 2013** – Ms. B. Rifkin *moved*, and E. Plotkin *seconded* to approve minutes as written.

*5-0-1 Ms. Dyer Abstained, Ms. Gerber not yet present)*

**II. COMMUNICATIONS:**

**1. Fairfield National Little League – Capital Improvements to Field at Fairfield Woods Middle School.** - Craig Curley from FNLL was present to make a request that the Commission allow the League to make improvements to the Fairfield Woods Middle School ball field. (See attached). He explained that they would be creating a grass infield, adding irrigation to the infield and replacing the fencing on the backstop as well as the dugout. This would be a similar project to that done at Melville #1 field. He reminded the Commission that they have also made improvements to Tunxis Hill field And Melville #2 as well. The funding has been raised and would be solely the responsibility of the League. They hope to start the week after Columbus Day. Members asked about the BOE approval described in the Summary portion of the letter. Ms. Gerber as a BOE representative stated that this request had not come before their Board. Mr. Curley let them know that several BOE members who had heard of the project had no problem with it and they stated that it was not an item that needed to come before their Board for a vote. He read an email from Mr. Title that included Mr. Gary Rosato, Principal of Fairfield Woods MS and no one had any objections. After hearing this, the Commission asked that Mr. Lombardo have a discussion with Mr. Rosato to go over details as they relate to the timing, the equipment that will be on-site and any other concerns he may have. Mr. Lombardo asked to have a detailed plan to show the Town Engineering Dept. It was verified that the Town would maintain the irrigation system after it is installed, as it does with other fields. Tarantino Landscapers will be doing the project and has an excellent track record according to Mr. Lombardo.

*Motion: A. Mullady moved and E. Plotkin seconded to amend this item to be a voting item.*

*Motion passed 6-0-1 (Mr. Gallucci abstained)*

B. Seirup *moved*, and B. Rifkin *seconded* to approve the improvement project as put forward in the letter from the Fairfield National Little League with all insurances naming the Town as an additional insured and with the understanding that Mr. Lombardo will act on behalf of the Town in insuring that the project is in the best interest of the BOE and the Town.

*Motion passed 6-0-1 (Mr. Gallucci abstained)*

**III. PUBLIC INPUT** – Alexa Mullady asked that the sign at Sandcastle playground telling users that dogs are not permitted in the area are difficult to see. She would like the sign relocated to the front of the playground. Mr. Lombardo stated that he would take care of it.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS:**

**Mobile Vending Policy** –Mr. Lombardo reported that he is working with Sands Cleary and the Health Department to set up a committee of in-house people who will then make a recommendation.

**Beach Parking Fee Increase on July 4, 2014 (raindate July 5, 2104)** – Mr. Lombardo reported that this recommendation stems from a post-July 4<sup>th</sup> meeting that he held with Town Leaders and Department Heads. It has been observed that the past years have become increasingly well-attended and this past year the Jennings Parking Lot had to close at 2:30 pm. (see attached Daily Parking numbers). Some suggestions have been to have parking attendants go on duty at 6:30am which is when cars began entering the lots. He also felt that raising the daily rates for that day might dissuade some and allow for the parking of residents who have seasonal stickers. He also reminded the Members that next year will be the 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration with even bigger fireworks planned. Mr. Gallucci remarked that there was evidently a social media announcement that Fairfield has the best Fireworks in the area. Mr. Lombardo noted that many Non-residents use other area parking lots (Sherman School and Bob’s Stores) to keep from paying any parking fee at all. After discussion of options, members felt that they wanted to raise the daily parking rate for the season and not just for the holiday. They asked Mr. Lombardo to come to the next meeting with the number of spaces at each beach lot. One option discussed was to cordon off space for season pass holders in each lot in order to provide space for them. There was also discussion by Marina boaters who say that there aren’t adequate spaces for them when they go to use their boats. Mr. Lombardo suggested that perhaps there could be a Marina only sticker that they would receive for free with their slip and then they could purchase an All Beaches sticker if they chose to.

This matter was tabled until next month.

**V. OLD BUSINESS:**

**1. Penfield Restoration and Repair Report-** G. Lombardo reported that at the most recent Bd. of Selectmen’s meeting it was decided that a Penfield Building Committee would be established to work on the restoration project. Mr. Gallucci again expressed his concern that there seems to be no sense of urgency. It was decided that although he spoke to Mr. Tetreau last month, this month he will put the Commission’s concerns in writing. All felt that this should then be forwarded to the media and the state representatives. Mr. Plotkin will assist in writing this letter.

**2. To hear an update report on Tennis Center Renovation Plan Report:** Mr. Lombardo reported that the construction began this week and that the building will be delivered on the 26<sup>th</sup>. They hope to have it completed by February.

**3. Boat Slip Lift at his South Benson Marina Slip** – Mr. Lombardo reported that he and Mr. Michelangelo met with Mr. Dentz’s son and went to So. Pine Creek to view another floating lift and view its operation. Mr. Michelangelo has some concerns and they will make a recommendation to the Commission in either Oct. or Nov.

**4. To hear and an update report from the Commercial Fishing Sub-Committee** –R. Seirup reported that the sub-committee met again prior to this meeting and while they are leaning towards allowing some sort of activity at Ye Yacht Yard, it has been brought to their attention that the ramp ere may need some repairs and perhaps pilings in the water. Mr. Lombardo will be asking the Engineering Dept. for some input on that before they proceed and make a recommendation to the full Board.

**VI. BD. OF EDUCATION REPORT:** Ms. Gerber reported

- The Campus Info system is taking over from Edline is still being tweaked.
- Official School Population numbers are coming in and will be final on Oct 1. Total number is presently down by 19 students. Warde numbers went up and Ludlowe down for the first time.
- After the election in November there will be 4 new BOE members.
- Quarterly PCB Testing at Osborn Hill showed levels in the library which has now had to be closed. The gym is still closed with a portable in use.
- Staff of 25 years and longer were recently recognized.
- Alternative HS will be renamed after Walter Fitzgerald. Exact name undecided.
- School bus issue on first few days of school when the new buses couldn't fit under some Town overpasses.
- Of Top 10 Teens to watch in CT, 5 were from Fairfield Public High Schools.

**VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** G. Lombardo reported:

- The installation of the Sandy Ground for Angels Playground at Penfield over the past weekend was a wonderful success. There is a bell that he plans to have silenced since it is quite loud and may be disturbing to the neighbors and beachgoers.

**VIII. PROGRAM REPORT-** No Report.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before the Commission, B. Rifkin *moved*, and J. Gerber *seconded* to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

*Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Joan Ryan, Recording Secretary