

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes of October 16, 2013

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Fairfield was held on Wednesday, October 16, 2013 at 7:00pm the Eunice Postol Parks & Recreation Dept. 75 Mill Plain Rd., Fairfield, Connecticut 06824

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

ABSENT: None

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

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

I. Act on Minutes of September 18, 2013 – Ms. B. Rifkin *moved*, and B. Seirup *seconded* to approve minutes as written.

6-0-1 Mr. Nerreau abstained, Ms. Gerber not yet present.

II. COMMUNICATIONS:

Chairman Gallucci let the Commission know that Commissioner Jack Tetreau recently moved out of Town and would no longer be serving on the Commission. He wanted to publicly thank him for his years of service and all the work he has done for the Town in general but especially for the Pop Warner organization.

1. Rabbi Stock- Mishkin Israel Day Camp-Menorah Lighting–11-27-2013 Sherman Green

Mr. Lombardo spoke on behalf of Rabbi Stock, letting the members know that due to another event at the Green, Rabbi Stock has now requested Sunday, Dec. 1 for the event (see attached).

Motion: A. Mullady *moved*, and E. Plotkin *seconded* to approve the request.

Vote: *Unanimous (Ms. Gerber not yet present)*

III. PUBLIC INPUT –None.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mobile Vending Policy –Mr. Lombardo reported that he worked with the Health Department and the Purchasing Department to come up with the following proposed policy to specify what they consider a mobile vending concession to be.

The mobile vending service shall be defined as a self-contained vehicle or approved vending cart, commercially manufactured for food service, meeting industry standards, and driven from the premises after hours of operation on a daily basis throughout the term of the agreement.

The vehicle must be registered and licensed by Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles, including local and State authorities. The Town reserves the right to determine the overall size, weight and capacity of the vehicle.

Each individual who is working at the vehicle must have a valid vendor permit from the Fairfield Police Department.

Additional furnishings not required as part of the mobile vending operation, such as, but not limited to, chairs, tables, umbrellas, tents, signage, and stereo equipment, etc., are not permitted. Playing loud music is also strictly prohibited.

Approval of the Concessionaire to operate a mobile vending vehicle at the designated area on Town property shall not be contrived as approval to operate on other Town owned or private property. No exceptions.

The members discussed the wording and made several suggestions to amend the policy asking that Mr. Lombardo take it back to the Health and Purchasing Departments to see if they are in agreement. It was understood that in an official bid there would be more specific language as well.

Motion: R. Seirup *moved*, and B. Rifkin *seconded* to table the request until November.

Vote: *Unanimous (Ms. Gerber not yet present)*.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

1. To hear an update report on a Floating Boat Lift Policy – Mr. Lombardo reported that he and Mr. Michelangelo, after viewing an identical boat lift in place, came up with the following information as it pertains to Mr. Dentz’s slip. He will however come back next month with the information in policy form for their approval. Ms. Ryan will be sure to put the item on the agenda as a voting item which it was not this month.

1. The slip in question is wide enough for the particular unit. It should be noted that not all slips at the Marina will be able to fit this type of unit.
2. The lift unit did not appear to impose any additional requirement for utilities, nor were there any additional paraphernalia incorporated with the operation of the lift that would require any space needs
3. This slip is in the area of larger boats. The lift causes the boat to sit approximately 4’ to 5’ higher than its normal floating height. Although this can potentially restrict breezes and views from other boats, we do not anticipate that this situation will create these problems in this area.
4. The boat will have to pull in to the slip in the forward position. This will create a somewhat awkward scenario to enter the boat from the dock. The boat owner will not be allowed to install any type of stair or plank system for this purpose.
5. We do not know how the lift and the boat will behave in the slip during winds, rains, or snow. The slip holder shall be responsible to any damage that this unit creates to our dock, pilings, or other boats.
6. This is an individual case, and all subsequent requests will be similarly evaluated on a case by case basis.

Members all agreed that the users will place the apparatus in the water themselves and use at their own risk. They will also need to be removed during the winter months. Mr. Dentz was present and agreed. He also stated that this lift uses no electricity.

2. To hear and act upon information regarding the Commercial Fishing Sub-Committee – R. Seirup reported that the sub-committee met again prior to this meeting and agreed to recommend the practice of commercial fishing only during the specified “off-season” and only at So. Benson Marina. The members noted that there are needed repairs to the ramp at Ye Yacht Yard, and perhaps the need for pilings so they hesitated to recommend that location. It can always be revisited at a later date. The fee they suggested of \$200.00 would be set by the Dept.

Motion: Ms. B. Rifkin moved, and E. Plotkin seconded to approve the following policy:

The Parks & Recreation Commission voted to permit commercial fishing boats owned and operated by a Fairfield resident, (not to exceed 36 feet in length with a draft not to exceed four feet), to load and unload their catch at the South Benson Marina during the off-season, as is determined by the Parks & Recreation Department. An annual fee for this permit will be charged and set by the Parks & Recreation Commission. Under no circumstances shall any commercial fishing or boating activities be permitted during the boating season as is determined by the Parks & Recreation Department. No exceptions.

Vote: Unanimously approved

Mr. and Mrs. Salce thanked the Commission for their time in coming to this decision.

3. To hear and act upon Beach Parking Fee Increases- At last month's meeting, Mr. Lombardo had made a recommendation to increase the daily parking on the day of the Independence Day fireworks but members were leaning toward an increase all summer as this would encourage both residents and non-residents to purchase season passes. Mr. Lombardo let the Commission know about the number of parking spaces at each lot as requested. They learned that on weekends Westport charges \$50 and Bridgeport charges \$40. The members were interested in making the accessibility of the beach to season pass holders easier and especially at next year's 375th anniversary celebration. The idea of suspending day passes for July 4th was discussed but members decided against it. They then asked about the lot spaces and decided to limit spaces and cordon off just a certain number for daily passes in order to ensure enough parking for season pass holders. Commissioners felt that whatever income was lost on that day would be realized during the rest of the season.

Motion: B. Nerreau *moved*, and B. Rifkin *seconded* to charge \$50 for Daily Beach Parking at Jennings and Penfield Beaches on weekends and holidays.

Vote: *Motion was approved 7-1 (Mr. Plotkin opposed).*

Motion: E. Plotkin *moved*, and B. Rifkin *seconded* to charge \$20 for Daily Parking at Jennings and Penfield Beaches on weekdays.

Vote: *Motion was approved unanimously*

Motion: A. Mullady *moved*, and B. Rifkin *seconded* to restrict the number of day parking passes on the day of the Town's Independence Day fireworks display to 300 at the Jennings Beach parking lot and 100 at the Penfield Beach Parking Lot.

Vote: *Motion was approved unanimously.*

4. To hear an update report on Penfield Pavilion Repair and Restoration – Mr. Gallucci reported that he had a conversation with First Selectman Tetreau and expressed the Commission's concern over the length of time that it is taking to resolve the matters regarding the Pavilion. Mr. Tetreau explained that a great deal of the delay stems from the insurance company. He has asked that a Building Committee be commissioned. He suggested that a letter to that Committee when it begins its work would be the best route. It was noted that Mr. Plotkin has agreed to serve on the Building Committee. Mr. Gallucci stated that even if it is after his tenure on this Commission, he would like to write the letter to the Building Committee when it is established. All agreed.

5. To hear an update report on Tennis Center Renovation Plan Report: Mr. Lombardo reported that the construction on the building began and they have an expected date of March or April.

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

- At the September 24 BoE meeting the Board received a PCB presentation from Woodard & Curran, who had tested hundreds of locations throughout our school system. Approximately 20 had medium levels of Chlorine (one indicator for PCBs), but did not warrant actually testing for PCBs themselves (a high level of Chlorine would have been incentive to test). Instead, it is recommended that the locations (which are spread throughout numerous schools) are taken care of, mostly through recaulking and/or painting, and then there should be routine yearly checks to make sure they still look OK. Dr. Title had just received the report when we did so had not yet come up with a plan as to how Tom Cullen and his department will deal with this job. The full report is available online at the FPS website.
- Next week's Bd of Ed meeting will be the last one for the current Board. Four members (Sue Brand, Pam Iacono, Perry Liu, Tim Kery) are stepping down at the end of their

terms and will be replaced by four new members who will be in place for the next BoE meeting on November 26.

- The library at Osborn Hill School has been reopened.
- Don't forget to vote on November 5!

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

- The Town received a STEEP Grant which is enabling them to do ADA upgrades to the restrooms at Jennings Beach. They will also work on the front circular parking area.
- Work will begin at both Sasco and Southport Beaches to make them more handicap accessible. At Sasco they will create a ramp from the restrooms to the parking lot with a raised crosswalk and sidewalk half way down the parking lot. At Southport the stone wall has been repaired and they will pave the sidewalk. At So Benson Marina the Fishing Pier is being raised and made handicap accessible.
- The National L.L. has begun their work at Fairfield Woods Middle School
- Tunxis Hill lower field area is in need of some work after last year's storms and Mr. Lombardo has contacted DPW to repair fences and remove large trees in the woods that have fallen.
- The Ye Yacht Yard building project is in the works.

VIII. PROGRAM REPORT- Mr. Lombardo reported:

- The staff has begun work on the Spring Brochure.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Commission, B. Rifkin *moved*, and A. Mullady *seconded* to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Ryan, Recording Secretary