

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

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Fairfield was held on Wednesday, November 20, 2013 at 7:00p.m. 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; Joe Michelangelo, Dir. Public Works; Members of the Public and Press

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

**First Selectman Tetreau was present to honor three longtime members whose time on the Commission has ended and present Appreciation Plaques; Jack Tetreau who has moved out of Town as well as Ellery Plotkin and Dante Gallucci who have each served ten years.**

**I. Act on Regular Meeting Minutes of October 16, 2013** – B. Nerreau *moved*, and B. Rifkin *seconded* to approve minutes as written.

*Vote: Approved Unanimously 8-0-0*

**Act on Commercial Fishing Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes of October 16, 2013** – B. Seirup *moved*, and E. Plotkin *seconded* to approve minutes as written.

*Vote: Approved unanimously 3-0-0.*

**II. COMMUNICATIONS:**

**1. Richard Iannucci - Memorial for Dave Russell-** Mr. Iannucci of 10 Shays Terr., Stratford, was present on behalf of the Port 5 Naval Veterans to request (see attached) that they be permitted to install a granite memorial at So. Benson Marina in honor of David Russell who served as their chaplain for many years and was also a founder of the Sea Service held each year at the Marina. Mr. Michelangelo was present and had discussed a location and had no objections.

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

*Vote: Unanimous*

**III. PUBLIC INPUT –**

1. Anastasia Zinkerman- an email (see attached) was received by The First Selectman and forwarded to the Commission regarding dogs and the ongoing problem of people not cleaning up after dogs at the Beaches and Lake. Mr. Gallucci read it for the record. There was a lengthy discussion as to whether there is in fact a large problem, understanding that the Lake is under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission. Some felt supply bags should be provided while B. Seirup felt it was setting an expectation that the bags will be there and he felt that people should be responsible for bringing their own plastic bags. Some members of the public suggested:

- a winter dog walking permit for the beach which might only be given to residents.
- Increase Dog license to help defray cost of bags.
- Give out rules at time of dog licensing
- Dog park

Mr. Lombardo will speak to Animal Control to increase patrol and will work to put more signage up. He will also look into whether or not there is any possible area for a dog park.

Mr. Gallucci suggested that this comes up each year and perhaps it is coming to the point where people might lose this privilege. The Commission may need to address the issue again.

2. GBYO Bonfire – Mr. Lombardo asked that permission be given to Mark Halstead and the Greater Bridgeport Youth Orchestra for a bonfire to be held on Dec 7 with a rain date of Dec. 8. He added that this late in the season is normally only permitted to groups and scout organizations.

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

Vote: *Unanimous*

Mr. Lombardo explained that the restrooms will be closed and that they may be required to return the next day to ensure that the embers are taken care of.

3. SCSU Intern – Mr. Lombardo introduced Kevin Knapp, a 2013 summer intern who was in the audience as a requirement of one of his classes.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Marina Fees-** Mr. Michelangelo presented the fee structure from the last nine years and percentage increases. (see attached). He did not request an increase for the coming year. The presentation was merely a matter of information for the Commission. Both he and Mr. Lombardo felt that it would be prudent to wait until a new Marina Manager is hired to see exactly what will be needed in 2015 and if a fee increase will be needed then.

Motion: B. Rifkin *moved*, and E. Plotkin *seconded* to maintain marina fees as they are with no increases in 2014.

Vote: *Unanimous*

**2. Clarification of Marina Rules & Regulations-**Due to a fact that there is not a Marina Manager in place yet, Kyle Fournier, of the Public Works Department has been taking on some of the duties and came before the Commission with several questions with regards to the rules. These questions and others from the members of the public sparked a lengthy discussion of the Marina as a whole.

*Mr. Mark Greenstein- 81 Melody Ln. asked why there are vacant spaces in the marina* –Ms. Fournier explained the renewal process letting the Commission know that due to enforcement of rules they will hope to have a better handle on the renewal process and will be using email more often. She also mentioned that due to the recent dredging some boats will need to be moved as some spots are not usable due to tides. It is certainly their goal to fill all the slips. Many members of the public had ideas including sending out a waitlist letter to let people know when they are coming up on the list. They have only two weeks to get a boat in the water after notification or they may defer for a year or decline and be taken off the list. Some felt this was too short a period to make arrangements. One resident, Joe Feria asked that the Department “flush out” the waitlist by notifying everyone and asking if they are still interested in remaining on the list. Mr. Michelangelo also agreed that they could publicize the waitlist by assigning numbers as residents are placed on the list. Then they could watch their progress on the list and not be surprised by a notification that a slip is available to them.

Ms. Fournier asked about the possibility of waiving the penalty for not having boats out of the water by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of November this year since there is no manager to police the slips. The Commissioners, after listening to the audience and discussing the issue did not want to change any rules in this regard.

Ms. Fournier also asked for some clarification as to residency requirements and proof of such residency, e.g. business addresses, P.O. boxes, etc. Clarification was given and it was clear that all the specifications were in the Rules and Regulations. No further action was taken. Ms. Mullady thanked Ms. Fournier for taking on a difficult situation and there was a short discussion of hiring a Marina Manager. Mr. Lombardo and Mr. Michelangelo are working with Human Resources to expedite this and will keep the Commission informed.

Mr. Gallucci suggested that a sub-committee be formed after the new members are selected and that they address some of the questions and concerns that have been discussed. They will likely invite members from the boating community to assist and have a Public Hearing once they do their work. All agreed.

**3. 2014-15 Budget Review-** Mr. Lombardo let the Commission know that due to the need for more information from the Budget Director, he will present the budgets in December.

## V. OLD BUSINESS:

**1. Mobile Vending Policy** –Mr. Lombardo reported that following last month’s meeting he spoke to the Health Department and the Purchasing Department regarding the suggested revisions that the Commission had made (see attached) to a proposed mobile vending concession. He asked to add Motion: P. Dyer *moved*, and A. Mullady *seconded* to amend the presented Mobile Vending Policy with the addition of a line in paragraph 4 to read (after “permitted”) without written approval from the Parks & Recreation Director or his/her designee.

Vote: *Unanimous*

Hunter King, 141 Seaside Ave, Bpt, was present to discuss his situation with the Commission. Ms. Mullady reiterated that they had thoroughly discussed the issue and it was clearly agreed that a mobile vending vehicle is something that will leave the site on a daily basis. Members encouraged Mr. Hunter to read the new policy; wait until the new bid comes out for the concession and, if he believes that his vehicle qualifies as mobile, then he is welcome to apply.

Motion: E. Plotkin *moved*, and B. Rifkin *seconded* to approve the amended Mobile Vending policy.

Vote: *Unanimous*

*Sharylyn Klammer of Harbor Rd. and Peggy Brenton of Oxford Place thanked the Commission and endorsed the new policy. Both spoke and Mrs. Klammer asked:*

- *That the first year of any concession contract be probationary.*
- *That it be truly mobile and self-contained with a generator so that the Town does not have to get involved with any electrical issues*
- *Flexibility of hours*

**2. To hear an update report on a Floating Boat Lift Policy** – Mr. Lombardo reported that he took the policy that they discussed last month and put it in policy form (see attached).

Motion: E. Plotkin *moved*, and B. Rifkin *seconded* to approve the Floating Boat Lift Policy as written.

Vote: *Unanimous*

Ms. Fournier asked if the boat lift that is presently on a boat in the marina will be permitted to stay regardless if it meets all the criteria. Mr. Lombardo responded that that lift is grandfathered.

**3. To hear and act upon Marina Parking Issues-** At last month’s meeting, Mr. Lombardo was asked to provide some information regarding the possibility of making some sticker /parking changes at the Marina. Mr. Lombardo spoke to the police who stated that on July 4, no one other than sticker holders are permitted until 6 pm and then they open all the gates. After further discussion the members decided that they would make no changes at this time but they will suggest that it be a topic of the Marina Subcommittee when it is formed.

**4. To hear an update report on Penfield Pavilion Repair and Restoration** – Chairman Gallucci read a letter (see attached) that if agreed upon by the members would be sent to the newly appointed Penfield Building Committee. All thanked him for writing it and asked that it be sent. Mr. Plotkin will serve on the committee.

**5. To hear an update report on Tennis Center Renovation Plan Report:** Mr. Lombardo reported that good progress has been made on the construction of the building and they hope to have all the framework done before the first snow so they can work on the inside during the winter months.

**6. To hear an update report on Veteran’s Park-** Mr. Lombardo gave a follow-up reported that the Police Commission did not approve closing the road through Veteran’s Park. However, Mr. Lombardo met with the Police, and DPW and they will make some enhancements, including a well-marked cross walk, a speed hump, better signage and rail fencing. It will be a budget item for DPW.

## VI. BD. OF EDUCATION REPORT:

Ms. Gerber reported:

- Fairfield Schools were honored in the AP Honor Roll. One of 477 school districts nationwide and in Canada who excelled in AP access and scoring.
- Alternative HS has been renamed the FHS Walter Fitzgerald Campus
- The first meeting of all new Board members will be next week and will elect officers.
- They will be given a presentation of the Proposed Lunch Program
- They will vote to approve the 2014-15 School Calendar on Dec. 10.

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

- All are invited to the Town's Tree lighting on Dec 6.
- The Holiday Breakfast is Dec. 14.
- The Youth basketball program is beginning in Dec and has grown a great deal since last year.
- Officer Elections and setting the 2014 meeting calendar will be taken up at December's meeting.

**VIII. PROGRAM REPORT-** None

**Mr. Gallucci and Mr. Plotkin both thanked the Commission for their work and for making their time on the Commission such a good experience.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before the Commission, E. Plotkin *moved*, and D. Gallucci *seconded* to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.  
*Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Joan Ryan, Recording Secretary