

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

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Fairfield was held on Wednesday, December 18, 2013 at 7:00p.m. the Eunice Postol Parks & Recreation Dept. 75 Mill Plain Rd., Fairfield, Connecticut 06824

PRESENT: Brian Nerreau; Robert Seirup; Barbara Rifkin; Alexa Mullady; Patti Dyer; Dorene Herron; Scott Walker; Mary von Conta (not yet a voting member) and Jessica Gerber

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Gerry Lombardo, Dir., Parks & Recreation and Members of the Public

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

On behalf of the Commission, Mr. Nerreau welcomed three new members Dorene Herron, Mary von Conta and Scott Walker and thanked them for their service to the community. Ms. von Conta explained that she had not yet been sworn in and therefore could not vote.

I. Act on Minutes of November 20, 2013 –

Motion: B. Rifkin *moved*, and A. Mullady *seconded* to approve minutes as written.

Vote: Approved Unanimously 4-0-2 D. Herron and S. Walker abstained.

Ms. Gerber and Ms. Dyer not yet present.

II. COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Joseph Draper – Dog Policy at Town Beaches-Mr. Nerreau explained that he had received an email (see attached) from Mr. Draper describing the environment at the beaches when dogs are there as well as small children. Mr. Nerreau responded by email to Mr. Draper stating that, in fact, the Commission was looking at this issue and would continue to focus on making the beaches an enjoyable place for everyone.

2. Bryan French – Marina Violation- Mr. Nerreau read the attached letter for the record. Mr. French, 78 Sasco Hill Rd. was present to make an appeal to the Commission after he was told he had lost his Marina Boat slip for not removing his boat by the designated time. Mr. French asked for an appeal on the grounds that he had contacted the office and was attempting to rectify the situation and was respecting the rules. For new members it was explained that all boats are to be removed by the third Sunday of November. After that time they will be given a fine of \$100.00 and if the boat is not removed after 48 hours, the slip is forfeited. At the previous November meeting, Kyle Fournier, Secretary of the Department of Public Works had brought this issue to the attention of the Commission, asking for direction, since a Marina Manager had yet to be hired. Ms. Fournier was directed to follow the rules, since all those in the Marina know what is expected of them. Mr. Lombardo explained that for the record a phone call was made to the Department of Public Works. where they handle the Marina, not the Parks & Recreation Department as stated. Mr. Lombardo recommended that, since a sub-committee is planning to be formed, it be brought before that committee and they come back to the full Board with a recommendation. Mr. Lombardo also recognized Mr. Neil Corcoran who had come before the Commission in late spring to appeal the fact that he lost his slip as a result of not getting his payment in on time. Mr. Nerreau was not sure that Mr. Corcoran's case would be looked at in the same light since Mr. Bimmel was still in place as Marina Manager. Ms. Mullady also felt that they couldn't act on this immediately, because the regulations give "no option to appeal" and that was something they would look into. Mr. Nerreau agreed that a sub-committee would be valuable moving forward but felt that since this year is a bit out of the norm with no Marina Manager, he hoped that although they try to diligently stick to the rules, sometimes an exception must be made. P. Dyer added that she too was willing to take another look at this issue stating that it was obvious Ms. Fournier was looking for direction for a role she was not familiar with. Mr. Seirup added that everything the Commission does sets a precedent and they have to "act for the whole and not

individuals.” He also recommended that it go to the sub-committee. Mr. Walker leaned toward acting on the appeal immediately as he felt Mr. French “did everything he was supposed to do.”

Mr. Nerreau and Ms. Gerber addressed the issue of the sub-committee trying to do too much too quickly in order to meet a February deadline. They suggested that they focus first on rules that are time sensitive for getting out the boat slips.

Motion: P. Dyer *moved*, and A. Mullady *seconded* to postpone any decision on the Marina violation for Bryan French until a date certain of February 19.

Vote: *Unanimous*

III. PUBLIC INPUT – None

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Election of Officers-

A. Mullady *moved* and B. Rifkin *seconded* to nominate Brian Nerreau for Chairman for 2014. *Motion passed 7-0-1 Mr. Nerreau abstained.*

B. Seirup *moved* and B. Nerreau *seconded* to nominate Barbara Rifkin as V. Chairman for 2014
Vote: *Motion passed unanimously*

B. Rifkin *moved* and A. Mullady *seconded* to nominate Bob Seirup as Secretary for 2014.

Vote: *Motion passed Unanimously.*

2. Setting of 2014 Meeting Calendar-

Motion: A. Mullady *moved*, and B. Rifkin *seconded* to approve the 2014 Meeting Calendar as presented.

Vote: *Unanimous*

V. OLD BUSINESS:

1. 2014-15 Budgets – Mr. Lombardo presented the three budgets for 2014-15

There was lengthy discussion of each budget. Mr. Lombardo let the Commission know that the health insurance had been taken out of individual budgets and would be reported in one administrative budget for the Town as a whole. He also mentioned that seasonal payroll is increasing due to an increase in minimum wage to \$8.70 on Jan 2014, and then to \$9.00 on Jan. 1, 2015. The uncertainty of Penfield Pavilion was discussed and the need to market it, when and if its reopening is known. For the most part, the revenues were based on a three-year average.

Motion: B. Rifkin *moved*, and A. Mullady *seconded* to approve the 2014-15 Budgets for Recreation, Penfield and Waterfront as presented.

Vote: *Unanimous*

2. Creating a Marina Sub-Committee- As discussed at last month’s meeting and previously in this meeting, the Commission felt it would be prudent to have a sub-committee review all the Marina Rules and Regulations.

B. Rifkin *moved* and D. Herron *seconded* to create a Marina Rules & Regulations sub-committee consisting of Alexa Mullady, Bob Seirup, Mary von Conta and Scott Walker.

Vote: Motion passed Unanimously

Ms. Mullady asked about the possibility of reprising the Ice Skate Rink and beginning work on the Field Committee. Mr. Lombardo will put both items on next month’s agenda for discussion. Some members of those sub-committees are no longer on the Commission.

3. To hear an update report on Penfield Pavilion Repair and Restoration – G. Lombardo reported that he will be having a walk-thru/tour with the newly formed Penfield Building committee on Friday, Dec. 20. He believes that Chairman Jim Bradley, who has a vast range of experience in the field and on several Town Building committees, will do an excellent job. The Committee will begin meeting formally

on January 9th and on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. As far as the insurance is concerned, they continue to meet and if they can't come to a resolution then the matter will go to arbitration.

4. To hear an update report on Tennis Center Renovation Plan Report: Mr. Lombardo explained the long-term Public/Private partnership to the new members and reported that continued progress is being made on the construction of the building and they hope to have all the framework done before Christmas although recent snow may have slowed them down.

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

- The Bd. will hear a presentation on secondary curriculum.
- The budget process will begin in January with three meetings prior to the vote on Jan. 30. Mr. Title does not think it will be driven by health costs as last year's was.
- The 2014-15 school calendar was approved with an early April Break. The 2015-16 calendars will be driven by the State unless something changes.
- They will begin looking over by-laws in February.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT: G. Lombardo reported that Sue Kiraly is working on a lot of new field requests for the spring from some new leagues. He added that Program Director Anthony Calabrese may come before the Commission at a future date to present options for raising rates for some programs such as soccer with the possibility of using that added revenue to put turf on some of the Town fields. Hoyden's Field was then discussed as a potential spot for some additional fields though Mr. Lombardo added that it was difficult getting the first one approved.

VIII. PROGRAM REPORT- Mr. Lombardo reported:

- Our Spring Brochure is due out the week of January 21, 2014 and will feature all of our Summer Playground camps and the Action Squad. We staggered Registration dates and times to handle the high volume of Online Registration.
- New this summer, we will again be offering extended morning care from 7:30 am – 9:00 am and added after-care, 3:00–5:00 pm for working parents. An additional fee of \$90 per time slot, per 3-week session.
- Summer Fun, K & 1 Camp which runs M – F, 9 am – noon, will offer extended care from 7:30 – 9:00 am, for an additional \$60, per 2-week session.
- The Town Youth Council is holding a Benefit Family concert on Friday, January 3rd at the Roger Ludlowe Middle School Auditorium. Tickets are \$5 and all proceeds will go to the American Red Cross, Philippines Relief Effort.
- New programs to watch for, Girls Inc., Mommy Origami and Me, Infant Massage Mommy & Me course, and a Kindergarten Soccer League

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Commission, B. Seirup *moved*, and A. Mullady *seconded* to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Ryan, Recording Secretary