

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes of July 17, 2013

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Fairfield was held on Wednesday, July 17, 2013 at 7:00pm the Eunice Postol Parks & Recreation Dept. Fairfield, Connecticut 06824

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

ABSENT: Patti Dyer

ALSO PRESENT: Gerry Lombardo, Dir., Parks & Recreation; Joe Michelangelo, Dir. Public Works, Robin Bimmel, Marina Mgr.; Public and Press

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

I. Act on Minutes of June 5, 2013: *Public Hearing* R. Seirup *moved*, and B. Rifkin *seconded* to approve minutes as written. *Motion passes 4-3 0.* J Tetreau; A. Mullady and B. Nerreau abstained

Ms. Gerber had not yet arrived.

Act on Minutes of June 5, 2013: *Regular Meeting* – Ms. Rifkin noted a friendly typing error changing Mr. to Ms. B. Rifkin *moved*, and E. Plotkin *seconded* to approve minutes with the correction.

Motion passes 4-3 0. J Tetreau; A. Mullady and B. Nerreau abstained

Ms. Gerber had not yet arrived.

II. COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Holy Family Carnival- (see letter) - Ken Elwood of 186 Soundwood Ave. was present to make the request. The only change to the prior years is that they will be shortening the event and not having it Thursday night. Ms. Mullady asked if they had thought to have it a different weekend than the Fairfield U commencement. Mr. Elwood understands the issues that it presents but it seems to be the only good weather weekend open to them prior to beach season that doesn't have other conflicts.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Abigail Hanson- Scout Camp out at Jennings Beach – (see letter) Ms. Hanson of 82 Rowland Rd. asked to bring scouts for a campout and campfire on Oct 5, 2013. This is their 3rd year. 25-30 people.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Rabbi Evan Schultz – Congregation B’Nai Israel – Request for a religious event and celebration of Rosh Hashanah on Jennings Beach Sept 4. They will bring chairs, have a picnic, music and ceremony.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Operation Hope Hometown Heroes Event-Donna Schmidt of Bridgeport CT was present to ask for permission to hold a celebration for the first responders to Hurricane Sandy. They would

like it in Sept either the 7th or 28th at Jennings Beach. Mr. Lombardo encouraged them to find a more appropriate location but there were few options. He stated that they should try the 28th as that would be better than immediately after the beach season and it would give more preparation time. They would need to setup on the 27th.

Motion B. Rifkin *moved*, and J. Tetreau *seconded* to approve the event at Jennings Beach for the 27/28 with insurance and Hold Harmless provided.

Motion passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC INPUT – Hunter King of Kings Kitchen, the concessionaire at Southport Beach was present to explain that he hopes to have the shack brought back to condition at the beach in order to “satisfy our contract and give people the service they have come to enjoy.” Mr. Lombardo explained that the Building no longer is up to code following Storm Sandy and Zoning will not allow it to stay on the premises. It was agreed that it needed to be removed. The Town wrote a bid to sell the building with Mr. King’s Timeframe in mind so he could get equipment to remove the building. He was sold the building but to date he has not met any timeline to move it. Mr. King spoke in the hopes of repairing the building and letting it stay on the premises. Eric Johannson of 99 Dalewood Rd. spoke on Mr. King’s behalf remarking that he feels the building is “perfectly serviceable”. He wondered why it can’t be a mobile building; moved after the beach season. Mr. Gallucci explained that this item was not noticed on the agenda and would need to go through the proper process of contacting the Department or Mr. Lombardo to request that an item be placed on the agenda. In the meantime, Mr. King must adhere to the RFP and move the building. “You must comply with the order until that order is changed”.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. Penfield Restoration and Repair Report-** Joe Michelangelo, Dir. DPW introduced Jose-Miguel Albaine, one of the architects chosen to restore the building who gave a lengthy presentation and explained that there are several options open to the Town and they plan to give the three options and prices pertaining to each and the Town will then decide.

They had Three Phases in this process:

Phase I -Survey and Review the existing condition

Phase II - Come up with a Final Design

Phase III – Restore to Pre-Sandy Condition

Three options are:

1. Repair in place to pre-sandy elevation as long as the price does not exceed 50% of the market value
2. Repair at elevated new 13’ FEMA regulated height with an extra foot for factor of safety. 5-6 feet higher than it is presently.
3. Move out into the parking lot at New FEMA elevated 14’height.

Pictures were shown of all the damage. Mr. Gallucci asked if the building was “built to spec” prior to the storm. Mr. Miguel answered that this was still being investigated. Mr. Jim Gallagher, Chairman of the Penfield Building Committee was present to state that there is much misinformation going around and the he believes the bulkhead was the source of the scouring. “We spent two years and 60% of the time was spent being sure we protected the neighborhood” and now you are discussing elevating the building and providing no protection to the neighbors. We worked hard to get those parking spaces that may be eliminated”.

Mark Greenstein-81 Melody Lane, was present to mention that the last time the area was dredged was in the 1960s. He feels that dredging is imperative saying that there are new sand bars in the

water and that a berm is also needed. He feels that Option # 3 is the best option as it will give more beach area and better access from building to beach.

Commission members spoke of their frustration in the length of time this is taking. Mr. Gallucci mentioned the Fairfield Beach Club, while a private enterprise, is up and running this summer and the Town is still discussing options. Mr. Lombardo agreed with their frustration, explaining that the insurance company involvement has made for a slow process. He added that of course the 4th option is to abandon the building but he believes it has value and is the centerpiece of summer life in Fairfield. He stated that the Commission has a large say in whether the building is built and where. Mr. Lombardo and Mr. Michelangelo are planning a neighborhood meeting for further information and discussion. He added of course that money is the driving force in the decision-making process and until they have firm numbers, from the architect, the engineers and the insurance company, nothing can move forward.

Barbara Rifkin asked for a report on the revenue that has been lost since the storm. Mr. Lombardo will provide at the next meeting. These numbers will include, not only the revenue, but also the expenses that have been saved by not having the building open.

2. To hear an update report on Storm Sandy Damage: G. Lombardo reported that they are in the process of receiving bids for damages of the seawall and retaining wall near the jetties.

3. To hear an update report on Tennis Center Renovation Plan Report: Mr. Lombardo reported that the Beanery is 99.9% down. They are set to start construction in August.

4. To hear and an update report from the Ice Rink Sub-Committee –Mr. Lombardo reported that Ellery Plotkin and Alexa Mullady were present at the sub-ctte. meeting and that they have set up a meeting with a company that may be interested in running the rink as a concession. Magic Ice was contacted but he doesn't like to do it the first year. Mr. Lombardo will also be approaching Brennan Shebeen to see if they will contribute to the enterprise and perhaps handle the cost of utilities.

5. To hear and an update report from the Commercial Fishing Sub-Committee –R. Seirup reported that he and Ellery Plotkin and Barbara Rifkin just met prior to the meeting. Mr. Salce was also present and explained his need for the ramp at the Marina for off-loading his clams for his business. He has been using his ramp sticker which Mr. Bimmel explains is not for commercial use. Mr. Seirup stated that he is concerned with setting a precedent though they are sensitive to his predicament. Mr. Bimmel is looking into neighboring communities and their fees, if they permit it. They will meet again prior to next month's meeting.

V. NEW BUSINESS –

1. Skate Park Issues – Mr. Seirup explained to the members that he has on a few occasions seen Youths who have jumped over the fence and are in the park, most without helmets. Mr. Gallucci replied, "When the gate is locked and closed and they jump the fence, they are committing a crime". Mr. Lombardo suggested that when they see that, the police, or special officers should be called. Mr. Seirup's reply was that "they scatter when they see police coming and they come back after they are gone. All members felt that if a few fines were levied (\$99) that perhaps the behavior would stop and be an example to others. Mr. Gallucci stated that the "need to make a statement and until we start enforcing the rules, there are no rules." Mr. Lombardo will contact the Chief of Police to discuss the patrolling of the area.

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

- There was a presentation of Food Services and the fact that they are losing money due to the healthy initiatives, many more are bringing their lunches. Since the rules have been relaxed the revenue has increased.
- Mr. Title's contract was extended for 3 more years.
- Both the Ludlowe HS and the Riverfield projects were approved. They are looking for members for the Ludlowe Building Ctte.

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

- Mr. Lombardo introduced Kevin Knapp, an intern from Southern Connecticut State University working for the Department in many capacities this summer. Kevin spoke for a short time about what he has been doing.
- The Domestic Violence Vigil was approved in June at the Sherman Green. It will be held Oct 3.
- 4th of July was a great success with only 2 incidents. The State does want them to change the way that the fireworks are loaded which may take some different planning. He has already begun working on next year's 375th anniversary event. Next year he will start collecting fees at the gate at 7am.
- The concert series has been a success
- When asked by Mr. Nerreau, Mr. Lombardo stated that he did not remove the hoops at Palamar Park because there had been no more issues.
- Neighbors placed a swim area near the houses close to Penfield so that boats don't go near the area. He will place this item on the agenda next month as it seems people believe this to be a Town of Fairfield area and ask for it to be set up and maintained.

VIII. PROGRAM REPORT- Mr. Lombardo reported that all are encouraged to attend the Fairfield Teen Theatre production of Rent.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Commission, A. Mullady *moved*, and B. Seirup *seconded* to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Ryan, Recording Secretary