

**TOWN OF FAIRFIELD  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
Minutes of January 15, 2020**

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Fairfield was held on Wednesday, January 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the Eunice Postal Recreation Center, Fairfield, Connecticut.

**PRESENT:** Scott Walker, Chairman; Brian Nerreau, Jamie Benton, David Weber, Chris McCoy, Bridget McBride, Jessica Gerber and Caitlin Schmidt

**ABSENT:** Mary Von Conta

**ALSO:** Anthony Calabrese, Dir. Parks & Recreation

Chairman Scott Walker called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**I. ACT ON MINUTES OF: December 18, 2019** – Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved as written. (Ms. Schmidt and Mr. Weber were not yet present)

**II. COMMUNICATIONS: To hear and act upon:**

**A. Jennifer Butler – Friends of the Library- Food Truck Fundraiser - Jennings Beach Lot September 13, 2020 (raindate October 3, 2020)** – Mike Foley, representing the Friends was present to make the request. Mr. Foley let the members know that their support is greatly appreciated and that last year they raised almost \$10K.

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

**Vote:** *5-0-1 (Walker Abstained)* (Ms. Schmidt and Mr. Weber were not yet present)

**B. Zilla Cannamela – Memorial Bench request for The Fairfield 5** – Ms. Cannamela and another representative of Desmond’s Army were present to make the request for a June 6 memorial at Whitewood Knoll Park. They asked to have a bench installed there that they will pay for as a memorial to the five dogs who were abused and died in a Fairfield home in 2018.

**Motion:** C. McCoy *moved*, and J. Gerber *seconded* to approve the request.

**Vote:** *7-0-1 (Walker Abstained)*

**III. PUBLIC INPUT: None**

**IV. NEW BUSINESS:** To hear and act upon any business that may properly come before the Commission: None

**VI. To hear and act upon information in Reports:**

**A. Board of Education Report:** Ms. Gerber reported that they are in the budget season and received a budget from the Superintendent for a 3.9 % increase over last year. Most of the increases are from contractual obligations, transportation, utilities and maintenance. All information is online. They have approved the Education specifications for the Osborn Hill roof and have also moved the Maintenance Department from a Julian–owned building to a building in Bridgeport. They also expect the Transportation Department to move there as well. Environmental testing continues and Jennings playscape is now open after the pressure treated wood was remediated.

**B. Director’s Report** - Mr. Calabrese presented a written report summarized below:

Reflecting on the past year, the Department has done a tremendous job with program offerings. We implemented over 15 new events over the past year. Some of these events included three S’more Sundays, three AR Workshops, Yoga Nidra, sold out shows at our Dueling Pianos, Woodstock, and eight comedy

shows! These events were all in addition to the timeless classic free community events that we offer like Breakfast with Santa, the Tree Lighting, the Memorial Day Parade, and our Fireworks display. Mr. Calabrese credited increased exposure on social media for a great deal of the success.

The 2020 beach sticker renewals are underway and are right on track with last year at this time. Winter programming is also hitting its stride, with everything from coding classes to basketball leagues. Registration for the new Beach Bunny 5K Family Fun Run and Annual Egg Scramble has begun. Our spring brochure is hitting mailboxes this week.

We have been asked to go “cashless” at our beaches this summer. We piloted this last summer at Lake Mohegan and it was well received. We will be implementing a credit card only system at both Jennings and Penfield Beaches in regards to daily parking. We are reviewing the field maintenance bids this Friday and will be making a decision in conjunction with the staff at the Board of Education, Department of Public Works, and the Purchasing Department. We are also planning to implement a few improvements to enhance public awareness at Lake Mohegan. We will be increasing the hours our Lifeguards are on duty from 6:00pm to 8:00pm during the beach season. We will also be adding signage in the water (Sudden Drop) and on land (Water closed from 8:00pm – 10:00am) that will help keep our patrons safe. The flooring and painting upgrades at Jacky Durrell are continuing to move towards completion. Pictures of the work were shown as well.

Budget season continues as Mr. Calabrese met with the First Selectwoman and her team earlier this week. The budgets were well received and no changes or modifications were made at the meeting. He will continue to follow the process as budgets go before the Town Boards for approval.

Mr. Calabrese also reported on marina news from Marina Manager, Justin Cathcart:

*2020 Slip Renewals:*

To date, the office has processed 78 applications (48 Small, 8 Med, 22 Large/Premium). On average they have been receiving 4-5 applications/day. The original email with application went out 12/18/19. The January Marina Newsletter with a deadline reminder was emailed out on 1/10/20. Mr. Cathcart will be sending a Code Red to all slip holders the week of 1/21/20 and the final reminder email will go out the week of 2/3/20. The deadline is 2/19/20.

*Dredging:*

The dredging project is nearing completion. The channel was dredged from the marina basin/channel demarcation line 8' + 1' deep by 100' wide to approximately 500' past the jetty (between pairs “G5” & “R6” and “G3” and “R4.” RACE conducted a post dredge survey on Monday. We should receive the final survey in the next day or so. Assuming the survey comes back acceptable, we will be able to release the dredging company (MDVP) to demobilize and complete the final beach grading.

**VII. GOOD OF THE ORDER – None**

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joan C. Ryan, Recording Secretary