

Colchester Parks & Recreation Commission
March 3, 2007 – 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall – Room 3

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman S. O’Leary, J. Cohen, N. Kaplan, S. Ashe, E. Kundahl
Jody Barr, L. Stephenson, Clint Williams, L. Dimock (8:24p.m.)

Members Absent: C. Ferrante, K. Wright

Others Present: P. McDowell, M. Gatesman, J. Blakeland, BOS Liaison G. Cordova,
First Selectman L. Hodge

1. Call to Order: Chairman O’Leary called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. Citizen’s Comments: L. Stephenson said she had received a phone call from someone that use to play in town and is now part of a senior team that is training for the Olympics. She is from Salem and the rest of the team is from Southeastern Connecticut. This would most likely be a one year thing if the Commission is willing to wave the 50% resident guidelines. N. Kaplan said that there are a lot of potential organizations that could have the same request. In the past there have been teams with only one Colchester resident on the team using fields that then Colchester residents could not use. The senior population is a target group of the Commission. L. Stephenson is to confirm that this would be a one year request.

3. Acceptance of Minutes of the February 4, 2008 Regular Meeting and February 13, 2008 Special Meeting: S. O’Leary questioned item C. of New Business. He does not remember saying that there were two bids brought before the Commission for review and the final date for all bids would be February 29, 2008. No bids had been received at that time. After discussion it E. Kundahl motioned to approve the February 4, 2008 Regular Meeting Minutes omitting the third sentence of Item C under New Business, seconded by L. Stephenson. All members present voted in favor with N. Kaplan and J. Barr abstaining. MOTION CARRIED.

N. Kaplan motioned to approve the February 13, 2008 Special Meeting Minutes, seconded by J. Barr. All members present voted in favor with L. Stephenson abstaining. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Reading of Correspondence: None

5. Committee Reports:

- **Facility Task Force :** None
- **Finance/Administration:** None

- **Programs:** (L. Dimock submitted a report to be read in her absence) She attended the Historic District Commission meeting about the tree and they said they would discuss the options and put it on the agenda for this month's meeting on March 10, 2008. An informal meeting has been planned to discuss the options with all the groups in town. The meeting will be held March 6, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

N. Kaplan motioned to accept the Program report, seconded by E. Kundahl. All members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

6. Old Business:

a. Mural at RecPlex: The offer has been withdrawn. No discussion.

b. Park Smoking Policy: The town has a smoking policy but it has never been officially adopted. G. Cordova recommended putting an ashtray somewhere in the park and designating that area as the smoking area. E. Kundahl spoke of an incident he had at the park with some teenagers smoking and the cops had to be called. There are currently no smoking signs up at the park. It was decided that the facilities subcommittee will work on this and possibly designate a smoking area.

c. Revise Refund Policy: J. Cohen requested that the refund policy be changed to where all money would be returned if a customer was unsatisfied. The \$10 handling fee would no longer be charged. The commission was in favor of the changes but would like to know how often refunds are requested and for what reasons. They felt the policy, as currently written, should remain for trips. J. Cohen will have some additional information and proposed wording for the next meeting.

N. Kaplan motioned to add Item I. Sponsorship Opportunity for 57 Fest to New Business, seconded by E. Kundahl. All members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

7. New Business:

a. Football Speaker Poles: P. McDowell spoke on behalf of the Colchester Football League. They would like to install speakers on three poles above the announcing area building. The speakers would be put out only during games and would be 18ft. from the ground. N. Kaplan questioned the metal polls serving as a lightening target and if the poles would need to be grounded. S. O'Leary asked that a design and drawings be available for the next meeting. First Selectman Hodge recommended the football league have a review meeting with Zoning and Planning to see what they would allow. The Commission is supporting the lights but will need the additional information.

b. 57 Fest Ice Cream Bid: L. Stephenson motioned to send a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen that the bid for the 57 Fest Ice Cream be awarded to New England Soft Serve, seconded by E. Kundahl. All members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

c. Playful City Program: The Playful City USA information was reviewed. J. Cohen said that this would require a great deal of support and recommended a subcommittee be

formed for it. S. O'Leary requested more time to review the information before any decisions were made.

d. Organic Fertilizer Bid: E. Kundahl had a great deal of concern over the composition of the fertilizers being used. He has spoke with several fertilizer companies and they have said that the bid is so tightly written that they will not bid on it. He feels that there are comparable products that would work just as well but the bid appears to be targeting a specific company. The organic material cost a great deal more than other alternatives. J. Cohen said that places have found that the organic matter in the fertilizers require less pesticides needing to be used making the organic matter justifiable. E. Kundahl responded that many professors disagree on that and with money in the town being very tight a synthetic fertilizer would be cheaper. First Selectman Hodge said all bids will be considered, even if the company submitting the bid proposes an alternative fertilizer composition than the one requested in the bid spec. She invited both J. Cohen and E. Kundahl to join her when the bids are opened.

e. P & R Monthly Cash Flow: The monthly cash flow was reviewed. Some members did not feel they understood it enough and would like further explanation as to how the money is handled. S. O'Leary had some concern that the money coming from a program is not then being used to pay for the program. The new proposed position would not cause an increase in program fees. The money to pay this additional employee would be generated from the new YEAH program. The finance administrating subcommittee will look at the budget and cash flow and break it down more for further explanation.

f. Subcommittee Assignments: C. William will join Finance/Administration and J. Barr and L. Stephenson will join Programs.

g. P & R Annual Report: The annual report was reviewed. A smaller version will be posted on the website.

h. P & R Program Fund Budget: This matter was discussed along with the monthly cash flow.

i. Sponsorship Opportunity for 57 Fest: S. Ashe motioned to recommend to the Board of Selectmen the amended Sponsorship Opportunity for 57 Fest, seconded by E. Kundahl. All members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

8. Parks & Recreation Director's Report: J. Cohen reviewed the report. L. Dimock questioned why the Town Hall Expo is always in April and why it begins so early. She feels that it is still to cold that time of year. J. Cohen said that it is felt that is a good time of year to show what the town has to offer and it starts in the afternoon for kids to come after school.

J. Barr motioned to accept the Park and Recreation Director's Report, seconded by N. Kaplan. All members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

9. Parks & Recreation Program Coordinator's Report: The report was distributed. Feedback was given on the well attended coaches training that was held. E. Kundahl motioned to accept the Program Director's Report, seconded by N. Kaplan. All members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

10. General Comments: S. O'Leary said he sent an e-mail to Linda Orange in support of background checks.

11. Adjournment: E. Kundahl motioned to adjourn, seconded by L. Stephenson. All members present voted in favor. MOTION CARRIED. Chairman O' Leary adjourned the meeting at 8:59 p.m.

Dawn LePage, Clerk