

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE NEWTOWN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
TOWN HALL SOUTH  
JULY 8, 2014**

These minutes are subject to approval by the Newtown Parks and Recreation Commission.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Marks called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

Commission Members present: Marks, Crick Owen, Brookes, and Yannii Jr.

Commission Members absent: Barczak and DiNicola

Staff present: Mangold, Samuelson and Reggiano

Staff absent: None

Public: Andy Via and Kendra Bobowick (The Newtown Bee)

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

May and June Minutes will be approved at the August meeting.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- Andy Via, of 13 Johnny Appleseed Drive, Sandy Hook, and President of Babe Ruth Baseball wanted to thank Parks and Recreation for an amazing job they did getting the fields ready for spring and summer play. He reported that Glander seemed perfect after additional clay material was added but then it rained and it there were a lot of rocks and glass in the infield. Mr. Via asked about Walnut Tree Field. He told Assistant Director Samuelson that the field is all crab grass. Assistant Director Samuelson explained that the field has been seeded and after the new grass comes in the field will be treated for the crabgrass. He noted that there is no water facility at that field and that a water diversion permit from the DEP to use water from the lake would cost about \$60,000.00 (that would include water permit, electric to the site and any studies that would have to be done.) Mr. Via told the Commission that the privacy fence that was installed at Glander Field is great. He also commented that he keeps putting up signs about restrictions involving the use of the PA system. Recent photos of unmaintained grass areas at the Middle School field were the result of Newtown Babe Ruth locking the areas to protect their equipment. The photo of the garbage in the dugout was a product of multiple players over the day. Each team should clean up after their use of the facility. Chairman Marks suggested building into time slots an extra half an hour to clean up and take care of the field. Mr. Via reported that the Trumbull Explosion is moving to Newtown Youth Academy. The Commission has not received a request for field use as of yet. Chairman Marks explained that Parks and Recreation would be discussing the 80% residency rule. They will be discussing whether or not to make it 80% residency per team instead of per league. The Commission also needs to discuss non-Newtown teams. Mr. Via asked that if the Fairfield County Captain applies for field time again for next season that they be invited to the meeting if there is one with the Captains. Director Mangold and Assistant Director Samuelson will work on Field Use Rules and Regulations and the Commission would have to take action on these changes before the Fall Field Use meeting. Commissioner Brookes would like to attend the Field Use Meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Director Mangold reported that she received the rosters from Newtown Soccer for their summer Premier teams. The teams are not comprised of 80% Newtown residents. There are 7 teams. Some only have a few residents on them. The Commission discussed denying access if not 80% residency per team. Wording in field access requirements should be changed to eliminate confusion.
- Adult leagues (older grandfathered in) have been made up of players who have graduated, are living or working in Newtown.

- The Department needs to get a better handle of the scheduling of the field time for Newtown players.
- Director Mangold received a Thank You to Parks and Recreation for another great week at camp and to Ethan and the Dickinson Staff.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

- Chairman Mark's reported that the Community Center meetings are continuing. Public Building and Site is now involved with the project. All involved now have a good sense of how the process should work. The Commission on Aging will be working further on their financials for the committee. Andy McClure, Bob Geckle and First Selectman Llodra will be assisting them. Parks and Recreation may need to refine our financials with Andy McClure as well. There should be more information coming in the next few months. On July 22 Public Building and Site will be going for the RFQ. Bob Geckle and Andy McClure will have direct access to Public Building and Site for the community center project.

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Director Mangold has a request from a slip owner that the shallow slip next to the pontoon dock be rented out for a jet ski. The extra slip could probably fit two jet skies. Commissioner Brookes would like to research other towns. Chairman Marks suggest that for this year only we charge \$100 per month (if rented now that would be \$350.00). This would be a onetime only rental for this year. If we expand the docks for next year we could possibly put in 6 spots for jet skis. Money for this would come from the Eichler's Cove. The renter of the jet ski would have to complete the vessel registration as well.
- Dickinson Park Playground – We will be holding the Grand Celebration on Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am. Many of the donors will be at the celebration as well as the playgrounds designer and contractor. There will be speeches, music and refreshments. All involved are committed to a July 26<sup>th</sup> opening but there has been an unexpected delay due to a design change. The name of the playground will be Funspace II.
- Kim Coloy from the Prevention Council was at the Teen Center and thought that it might be possible to qualify for a grant that would help with projects at the Teen Center. She would like Director Mangold and Assistant Directors Samuelson and Reggiano to make a list of needs and wants for the Center.
- Director Mangold and Assistant Director Samuelson met with Cathy Quinn of the Sustainable Energy Group to discuss replacing the lights at the parks with LED lights.

#### **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PARKS – PARKS AND FIELDS REPORT**

- See attached report.
- The Crew are readying the fields for two tournaments this coming weekend.
- Assistant Director Samuelson reported that he purchased 5 loads of clay – and later found out that the clay contained broken glass, as reported by Andy Via of Newtown Babe Ruth. They have spent a lot of time cleaning the clay. He has been in touch with the delivery company and is seeking additional clay at no cost to Newtown.
- Started working on Funspace II perimeter clean up.
- Middle School – 1/3 of the outfield is too wet to mow.
- Assistant Director Samuelson would like to discuss field allocation for tournaments, etc. Also access to fields for tournaments, maybe more restrictive. And all rules must be equally applied.

#### **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF RECREATION – RECREATION REPORT**

- Assistant Director Reggiano reported that the Rooster Run had 385 runner/walkers. Parks and Recreation donated \$3,200.00 to the Newtown Scholarship Fund.
- Camps are going well. Lou Bergholz from Edgewood Consultants commented that we are doing very well and he is due back on July 10<sup>th</sup>.

- Motoko Ishihara - A Japanese woman who visited Newtown and Parks and Recreation last year after 12/14 came back to visit again this summer. She spent two days at day camp teaching the campers about her culture. She made paper hats and swords with the children. She also visited the Parks and Recreation Office and had a Tea Ceremony for the staff. She also had two friends from Japan with her on her visit Newtown. She visited the Senior Center, worked with Sandy Hook Promise and met David Merrill who is working on a mural at the Town Hall.
- Assistant Director Reggiano reported that she has started the Dog Goose Patrol at Eichler's Cove to help keep the beach and water area clean. These approved dogs go to the facility after hours to run along the beach and into the water to scare away the geese.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. DOG PARK UPDATE**

- The dogs are enjoying the Splash Pad.

### **2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN – CIP 2015-2020**

- The Commission reviewed the Summary Worksheet.
- Based on the preliminary Finance Department report, the \$10,000,000.00 Community Center Phase I has been moved to 2016/2017 and the \$5,000,000.00 Community Center Phase II has been moved to 2017/2018 because of the GE Grant. Chairman Marks will speak with Finance Director Bob Tait to see if it is possible to have projects/phases moved together. The cost for the Dickinson Parking lot should have 5% added to the cost of \$450,000.00. We will need to show updated cost estimates/quotes to support project. Eichler's Cove Improvements will also need to have 5% added to the cost of \$325,000.00. We will need to show updated cost estimates/quotes to support project.
- Treadwell Pool/repair/replacement – Engineering study should be done now to determine the life of the pool. \$1,500,000.00 for the pool in 2019/2020.
- Chairman Marks will ask Mr. Tait if we could move smaller projects into 2015/16 if the \$10,000,000.00 community center project gets pushed out to a later year. We would provide Mr. Tait with all supporting documentation related to these projects.
- Director Mangold will forward to the Commission the information from Mr. Tait with preliminary changes.
- Chairman Marks, Director Mangold and Assistant Director Samuelson will work on items for 2019/2020 - \$350,000.00 towards Phase 1 of an athletic field at Fairfield Hills (softball field) and \$400,000.00 for Alpine Road park improvements.
- The Commission agreed to have a Special Meeting to address the CIP further. The meeting will be on Monday, July 28, 2014. The Commission will have a facilities tour - Alpine Road pocket park, Orchard Hill, Lake Lillinonah and Treadwell Park at 11:00 am that day (meet at the Parks and Recreation parking lot) and possibly hold the Special Meeting at 1:00 pm that afternoon. If that time does not work for all then the meeting will be at 6:00 pm that evening.

### **3. COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATE**

- See Chairman's Report

### **4. SUGAR HILL AAU GIRLS BASKETBALL WAIVER REQUEST**

- Chairman Marks spoke with Scott Larsen about the requirements for his league and is awaiting further information from Mr. Larsen.

### **5. NON-RESIDENTS PARK FEE**

- Commissioner Brookes discussed some of the details of the Greenwich lawsuit. Greenwich had a restrictive ordinance that said only residents could use a particular park facility. The court found against the City of Greenwich in 2001. After an interview with the News Times, First Selectman Llodra contacted Parks and Recreation to make sure we are in compliance with that ruling.

Chairman Marks asked that all wording on signs, pamphlets and website restricting facility use to only Newtown residents be removed. He also asked that Director Mangold, Assistant Directors Reggiano and Samuelson review the fee structure for non-residents to make sure they are not restrictive to non-residents. It is not illegal to charge double for non-residents. We are to make sure we are in compliance. Resident permits might have to be changed eventually. Chairman Marks would like a report on the progress at next month's meeting.

#### **6. TRACK UPDATE**

- Assistant Director Reggiano met with Erin Schumacher to discuss going forward with Cross County Track in the fall. The track coach from the high school offered to advertise.

#### **7. COMMISSIONER'S OUT AND ABOUT**

- There was a facility tour held last month for Commission members and Department Heads. There were about 19 people in all that went on the tour. There will be a second tour to follow.

#### **8. OTHER**

- Funspace II - after safety concerns from one of our Town Residents - Commissioner Yanni Jr. ordered 200 Public Playground Safety Handbooks published by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, these handbooks will be available at the office for distribution to the public.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **1. DICKINSON PARK PLAYGROUND SIGN WORDING**

##### **2. FIELD RULES/REGULATIONS AND FEES**

##### **3. OTHER**

(m/s/c: Yanni Jr./Crick Owen) "Motion to adjourn." The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting ended at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Donna Benson  
Commission Clerk



## TOWN OF NEWTOWN

### PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

#### PARKS AND FIELDS REPORT

**TO:** Newtown Parks and Recreation Commission,  
Amy Mangold, Director

**FROM:** Carl Samuelson, Assistant Director – Parks

**DATE:** July 8, 2014

**RE:** Monthly park update and field report

Summer has set in, camps have started, and all of our facilities are in full swing. During the past month we have completed or begun work on the following:

- Set up and break down for Rooster Run.
- Dog Park splash pad hook up complete.
- Eichlers Cove dock and fencing repairs.
- Clay addition to High Meadow, NHS and Glander fields.
- Dog Park sign and power conduit installation.
- Edged Liberty, Reed and PeeWee #1 fields.
- Painted Treadwell, Teen Center and Liberty parking lot lines.
- Conduit installation in preparation for Dickinson walk install.
- Dickinson bed weeding and mulching
- Daily grooming, lining and mowing operations in full swing.
- Treadwell basketball court sidewalk
- Funspace water line install.
- Completed phase 1 of irrigation central control project.
- Farmers Market fencing install.
- Overseeded Walnut Tree field.

Items we have started/continued work on:

- Phase 2 of irrigation central control project.
- Funspace perimeter clean up.
- Field edging and tournament prep.
- Soccer/lacrosse field goal mouth aerating and seeding

Staff:

- 128 hours of vacation/sick/personal/injury/discipline hours were used out of 1600 potential work hours in the past month. This represents a 8% loss in workforce or .8 employees per day.

