

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT OF THE APPROVAL BY THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION.

March 10, 2015

The Parks and Recreation Commission held a special meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 in the conference room located at 3 Main Street in Newtown, CT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Edward Marks at 7:30 pm.

Present: Chairman Edward Marks, Vincent Yanni, Maureen Crick Owen, PJ Yochum, Warren Spencer.

Absent: Patrick Barczak, Tom DiNicola.

Staff Present: Amy Mangold, RoseAnn Reggiano, Carl Samuelson

Public: Linda Hess, William Loging, Rory Dieckman, Randy Dieckman, Richard Dieckman, James Swift, Josh Hall, Tom Harrison, John O'Leary, Joe Augustine, Andy Via, Scott Larsen.

Acceptance of Minutes:

January 13, 2015 and February 10, 2015 were tabled until next scheduled Commission Meeting.

Public Participation:

John O'Leary, President of Newtown Youth Basketball, Newtown, CT

Mr. O'Leary wanted to start off by thanking the Parks and Recreation Commission and staff for organizing gym space for NYBA throughout the year. This program requires lots of gym space to accommodate all their teams and that they have a lot of public participation. Mr. O'Leary expressed his concerns of solicitation at NYBA events and was seeking guidance and advice from the Commission on how to handle this going forward. He stated that other organizations are soliciting team players while participating in Newtown Youth Basketball. Chairman Marks has already spoken to Parks and Recreation staff: Director of Parks and Recreation, Amy Mangold and Assistant Director of Recreation, RoseAnn Reggiano regarding this issue and is bringing it to the commission attention for the first time tonight. They will be able to put together guidelines for Newtown organizations to use in situations like this. Not sure how much control they will have of outside organizations from other areas? They will take steps to monitor this more diligently. Chairman Marks also stated that as a Commission, they do not

promote or approve of this and that it will be added to the agenda to be discussed in greater detail, at the next Regular Commission Meeting.

Andy Via, President of Newtown Babe Ruth Baseball, Newtown, CT

Mr. Via with Newtown Babe Ruth Baseball requested a time frame until NBR will receive a schedule from Newtown Parks and Recreation, after getting through the Waiver Process. He expressed an urgency to get this schedule, because they are trying to schedule both in town and out of town games. Assistant Director of Parks, Carl Samuelson responded that the schedule would be ready by next Tuesday night, March 17, 2015.

Linda Hess, Newtown Soccer Club, Newtown, CT

Ms. Hess inquired if the new rule about auditing organizations would be discussed tonight. Chairman Marks responded that it was not on the agenda for tonight's meeting. Chairman Marks stated that it is an evolving process and that will coincide with the Field Rules/Regulation Manual. It has been decided that the commission needs to have a stronger oversight of participating organizations to avoid some situations that may occur. Ms. Hess expressed her concerns that they have been given estimates of an audit being between \$6,000.00 and \$10,000.00, and feels that this is a big chunk of money for a charitable organization. Ms. Hess has requested some guidelines for what will be needed for smaller organizations. Assistant Director of Parks, Carl Samuelson responded that he had talked to Director of Finance, Robert Tait regarding some of the guidelines and the costs to each organization. It is estimated that the cost of an audit would be \$1,500.00 to \$2,500.00. Ms. Hess stated that some organizations have audits every year and might be less expensive than an audit every 2 years. She feels like any costs for an audit is taking money out of the organization for the kids. One of the concerns is that for a larger organization you can increase the registration fee a little, but for smaller organizations that would require a bigger increase to cover the audit fees. Chairman Marks responded that this will need to be taken into consideration when making decisions about the process. The audit process at this point is two years out and that many decisions would need to be made before implementing. The Commission would have to take into consideration of what is acceptable for the town and what is reasonable for the organization. Assistant Director of Parks, Samuelson also stated that he had forwarded to the commission, Director of Finance, Tait's input of the audit process.

Correspondence:

No correspondence reported this month.

Newtown Parks & Recreation Meeting of 03/10/15
Field Allocation Waiver Requests

Streamlined Process

<u>Team</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Roster</u>	<u>Newtown</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Newtown Samba U17 Boys	NSC	17	9	52.9%
CFC West U16 Boys	NSC	17	4	23.5%
CFC United West U14 Boys	NSC	20	4	20.0%
CFC Samba U14 Boys	NSC	19	7	36.8%
Newtown West United U13 Boys	NSC	20	7	35.0%
Newtown CFC West U11 Boys	NSC	20	5	25.0%
CFC West U14 Girls	NSC	18	3	16.7%
CFS West U13 Girls	NSC	16	1	6.3%
CFC West Newtown U12 Girls	NSC	17	1	5.9%
Newtown Women's Softball	N/A	N/A	N/A	95.0%
The Wicked (youth softball)	N/A	20	<u>18</u>	90.0%
			59	

Full Review

Admirals Baseball 17U	American Legion	14	10	71.4%
Admirals Baseball 19U	American Legion	16	10	62.5%
Newtown Babe Ruth (13 Prep)	Babe Ruth	N/A	N/A	85.0%
Fairfield County Captains (14U)	AABC & AAU	15	12	80.0%
Fairfield County Captains (15U)	AABC & AAU	12	<u>10</u>	83.3%
Sugar Hill Sports (5th & 6th Grades)	AAU	22*	18*	80.0%

*Anticipated Roster Composition

Table for Later Date?

Newtown Fall Baseball	New Haven Bball Lge	30	30	100.0%	FALL 2015
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Chairman's Report:

Fields Waiver Review

Streamlined request

*Please reference page, titled **Newtown Parks & Recreation Meeting of 03/10/15 Field Allocation Waiver Requests**, for the list of Streamlined Process Teams.

Newtown Soccer Club

Chairman, Edward Marks inquired about the 2 U14 teams and how does that work? Ms. Hess responded that the CFC United West U14 was a premier team. It's the same group, but a higher level and more regional, with separate roster and schedules. Chairman Marks stated that there was no waiver request and asked Ms. Hess to confirm that no waiver was being requested for Boys U12. Chairman Marks asked the following questions for Newtown Soccer Club in regards to CFC that can be answered at a future date: 1) Does NCS collect registration funds for CFC? 2) Does NCS keep the funds or pass it onto CFC? 3) Is registration for all the CFC done through the NCS website? 4) How are the camps handled? Are they done through NSC and what is the fee structure? If it's done through CFC or Samba, how does that structure work? Chairman Marks expressed his concern that NSC is scheduling for another organization, which cannot continue going into the future. Assistant Director of Parks, Samuelson stated that the spring term, spring season is March 15, 2015 thru June 21, 2015. NSC will apply again this summer for the fall term. Going into the fall term, teams failing to meet residency levels may need to rent fields at an hourly rate.

Motion:

Commissioner, Maureen Crick Owen made a motion to approve spring 2015 waivers for: Newtown Samba U17, CFC West U16 Boys, CFC United West U14 Boys, CFC Samba U14 Boys, Newtown West United U13 Boys, Newtown CFC West U11 Boys, CFC West U14 Girls, CFS West U13 Girls, CFC West Newtown U12 Girls. This motion was seconded by Warren Spencer. Vincent Yanni, Jr.; Maureen Crick Owen; Warren Spencer were in favor. PJ Yochum abstained.

Newtown Softball

Already an existing team and in compliance - didn't need a waiver.

The Wicked (youth softball)

The Wicked is not a non-profit organization. This organization is not 501C3, so does need a waiver.

Motion:

Commissioner, Maureen Crick Owen made a motion to approve The Wicked (youth softball) spring 2015 waiver. This motion was seconded by PJ Yochum, which was carried unanimously.

Non-streamlined request

*Please reference the page titled, *Newtown Parks & Recreation Meeting of 03/10/15 Field Allocation Waiver Requests*, for a list of organizations that had full review.

American Legion Admirals Baseball 17U and 19U

Tom Harrison with Post 100 Legion Baseball stated that they had 2 separate tryouts. The first tryout was in November at Bethel High School and the second tryout indoors at All Star in December. The whole team was picked last fall. Josh Hall with Post 100 Legion Baseball stated that there are 8 zones in the State of Connecticut and each zone has somewhere between 6 and 10 programs. Newtown and Bethel share a team. There are teams in Monroe and Danbury, but Bethel is the only choice for Newtown kids. The Post 100 Legion teams currently don't meet the 80% criteria of number of players from Newtown. The team does have access to Bethel fields and will have most of their practices and games in Bethel. Mr. Harrison expressed that they don't have a problem getting the field for games, but for some practices it can be difficult. Mr. Hall stated that they don't play tournament baseball but play in a league and they have between 24 and 27 games. He stated that cost is \$650.00 per player versus \$2,000.00 per player for AAU. Commissioner Spencer questioned the uniqueness of this program, which is one of the criteria's for field access. He also asked if there was a senior program in the Newtown Babe Ruth program and would there be a conflict. Mr. Via of Newtown Babe Ruth explained that they do have a U16 Prep team over the summer. Mr. Hall explained that the American Legion is a different type of baseball. It's not as competitive as some of the other programs, but is a more serious and committed game. They have some college students that return to play in the U19 program. Mr. Harrison also pointed out that they play with wood bats versus metal bats used in Babe Ruth. Also, that the American Legion Baseball has been around since 1925. Commissioner Vincent Yanni, Jr. inquired on why they don't meet the 80% Newtown player participation? Mr. Hall explained that the Bethel Legion Post is supported by Bethel Park and Recreation and can't be compared to all Newtown players. However, the team is made up of tryouts and they take the best players. Commissioner Spencer expressed his concerns of giving field time to the American Legion would take away field time from Babe Ruth and could be hurting the program, because it would be in competition with senior Babe Ruth. Chairman Marks expressed that it would be less of an issue for 19U than for the 17U. Assistant Director Samuelson stated that American Legion would be using 90ft fields and we have a limited number of 90ft fields. This could cannibalize the Babe Ruth program and/or take away field time from town programs. Mr. Hall stated that they would be looking more for the U17 to use the fields because they are developing players that would want/need more practice time. Mr. Harrison stated that they would be using the fields

as a supplemental for practice. Commissioner, Crick Owen questioned the supplemental use over the summer and what that would consist of? Chairman Marks requested clarification of their season, which is early June to late July. Chairman Marks asked Mr. Via, President of the Newtown Babe Ruth, how many travel teams does he have over the summer. Mr. Via responded that they have 6 teams.

Motion:

Commissioner Maureen Crick Owen motioned to approve or deny waiver request for the spring 2015 American Legion Admirals Baseball 17U and 19U for spring 2015. The motion was seconded by Vincent Yanni, Jr. Chairman Marks called to vote: Vincent Yanni, Jr ~ 17U- nay, 19U- nay; PJ Yochum~ 17U-nay, 19U-nay; Warren Spencer ~ 17U - nay, 19U – nay; Maureen Crick Owen~ 17U – nay, 19U-nay. The waiver request was denied.

Newtown Babe Ruth (13 Prep)

Mr. Andy Via with Newtown Babe Ruth started by saying that he received an e-mail from a father that lives in Monroe, CT asking if his son can play 13U Babe Ruth baseball in Newtown. He also received an e-mail from a mother that lives in Monroe and works in the Newtown Schools, asking if her son can play 13U Babe Ruth in Newtown. Mr. Via stated that for the upcoming season, Monroe doesn't have a program for Babe Ruth U13. After meeting with the state commissioner of Babe Ruth, these players have permission to play Babe Ruth in Newtown. He currently has 3 kids from Monroe with the potential of up to 6 kids. So requesting a waiver to allow these kids to play for Babe Ruth in Newtown, because there is the potential of going below the 80% of Newtown player participation. This request is just for the spring season. Chairman Marks asked on how the 6 players would be divided up or would they all be put on 1 team? Mr. Via responded that the 6 players would be divided among all the teams, except for 2 players that have requested to stay together. This will not require more field time, they will remain at 5 teams.

Motion:

Commissioner PJ Yochum motioned to grant spring waiver for Babe Ruth 13 Prep. Commissioner Warren Spencer seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Fairfield County Captains 14U and 15U

Chairman Marks started by asking if Fairfield County Captains required a waiver? If so, why? Assistant Director of Parks, Carl Samuelson asked if 1) Fairfield County Captains were a non-profit 501C3 organization? The Captains is an LLC? 2) What was the tryout schedule? –that the website doesn't show an open tryout. It states that no formal tryouts are scheduled, but can

call for individual tryout. Mr. Dieckman with Fairfield County Captains responded that all their tryouts were in November and that the teams were put together last fall. The website is meant to say that no formal tryouts are scheduled at this time. Assistant Director Samuelson inquired if there was a cut off time for individual tryout? Chairman Marks inquired about the financial structure of the organization. Mr. Dieckman stated that they have paid trainers, league fees, insurance and tournaments. If any money is left over at the end of the season, it is returned to the players. The cost is \$1,200.00 per player and covers trainers over the winter, 4 tournaments, 10 training sessions and 35 games. Chairman Marks asked if they ever have any overnight trips and how this is paid for. Mr. Dieckman said that they have one overnight trip to Hershey, PA and that the coaches pay for their own way and hotel and is not taken from the fees. Commissioner Spencer questioned the uniqueness of Fairfield County Captains and why couldn't these teams be incorporated into the Newtown Babe Ruth program. He expressed that when we have separate organizations it causes cannibalism of in house organizations. Mr. Dieckman responded that these players are looking for a different type of baseball and wouldn't play for Babe Ruth, but would go and play for another AAU team. Chairman Marks stated that the minutes from the January 2014 Parks and Recreation meeting Fairfield County Captains stated that this program offered paid coaches and trainers and Babe Ruth doesn't offer this, which makes the Captains unique. Is this accurate? Mr. Spencer stated that if the board of Babe Ruth voted to have this type of program, it can be done and this has been done in the past. Mr. Spencer said that it is subjective if the Captains think this makes better baseball. Mr. Via with Newtown Babe Ruth Baseball stated that Babe Ruth can form an AAU team if requested.

Motion:

Commissioner PJ Yochum motioned to approve or deny the waiver request for Fairfield County Captains 14U and 15U for spring 2015 season, which was seconded by Vincent Yanni, Jr. Chairman Marks called to vote: Vincent Yanni, Jr ~ 14U- nay, 15U- nay; Warren Spencer ~ 14U - nay, 15U – nay; Maureen Crick Owen~ 14U – nay, 15U-nay; PJ Yochum~ 14U-nay, 15U-nay. The waiver request was denied.

Sugar Hill Sports

Chairman Marks asked the commission if they have any questions regarding Sugar Hill Sports waiver for use of gym space for the spring season. Assistant Director of Recreation RoseAnn Reggiano stated that Scott Larsen, President of Sugar Hill Sports had requested gym use on June 3, 2014. The Commission at that time gave Sugar Hill Sports a waiver and that Mr. Larsen had 9 months to form a board and bylaws for accountability. Mr. Larsen was under the understanding that if he did form a board and bylaws that he would not require a waiver? He currently has 80% Newtown participation and has published open tryouts on Hoops website, Sugar Hill website and Newtown Bee. Chairman Marks inquired on how board members were appointed? Mr. Larsen responded that all board members are in agreement to form a board

and voted for each position. Chairman Marks expressed his concern that Sugar Hill Sports is soliciting at other organization games in Newtown. It will be a requirement that this does not occur. Chairman Marks asked if granted waiver this season, will Sugar Hill Sports need to acquire one going forward. This program would fall into the guidelines of being unique in that it is not competing with Newtown Basketball Association, because their season would be over. Mr. Larsen stated that his goal is to serve his community and will maintain 80% or more of Newtown players. Going forward, if he has tryouts and his roster falls below 80%, he will seek a waiver for that season. Chairman Marks' concern is that we won't know who is trying out, so we need to take that into consideration. Director of Parks and Recreation, Amy Mangold inquired on age group and number of teams. Mr. Larsen explained that he would have 2 teams that he would coach and they would be 5th and possibly combined with 6th grade girls and 6th grade boys. He will have a total of 22 players. Mr. Larsen is looking for gym time 3 times a week. He uses the gym for mostly practice time and that most of his tournaments are out of town. The cost is \$500.00 per player.

Motion:

Commissioner PJ Yochum motioned to accept the waiver for Sugar Hill Sports for up to 2 teams, boys and girls. Commissioner Warren Spencer seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Assistant Director of Parks and Fields Report:

Tabled until April 14, 2015 Commission Meeting

Assistant Director of Recreation Report:

Tabled until April 14, 2015 Commission Meeting

Motion:

Adjournment:

Commissioner PJ Yochum made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 pm. This motion was second by Warren Spencer, which was carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 6:00 pm at 3 Main Street, Newtown, CT in the conference room.

Submitted, Gabriella Chertoff, clerk.