**Town of Newtown, CT** 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT

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

The Parks and Recreation Commission held a special meeting on Wednesday, June 17, 2015 in the conference room located at 3 Main Street in Newtown, CT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ed Marks, at 6:02 pm.

**Present:** Chairman Edward Marks, Patrick Barczak

**Absent:** Vincent Yanni, Jr., Maureen Crick Owen, Warren Spencer, Thomas DiNicola, PJ Yochum.

**Staff Present:** Amy Mangold, Carl Samuelson, RoseAnn Reggino

**Public:** James Twitchell, Pat McCleary, Linda Hess

**Public Participation:**

*Pat McCleary, Director of Operations for Newtown Babe Ruth Softball and Division Director 14/15 for Babe Ruth Baseball*

Mr. Pat McCleary came before the commission to discuss his opinion on Newtown FastPitch Softball Association receiving a field waiver for the 2015 summer season. Mr. McCleary stated that based on some of the other teams that were granted waivers he assumed the commission would also grant FastPitch Softball a field waiver for the summer. Mr. McCleary also strongly suggested implementing the new field policy before the fall. Chairman Ed Marks agreed. Mr. Marks also stated that the commission was working towards having new policy in place for the fall season.

*Linda Hess, Newtown Soccer Association*

Mrs. Linda Hess came before the commission to inquire on what information Newtown Soccer Association will need to present in the fall for field use, with the new policy in place. Ms. Hess also expressed her concern with the lack of Parks and Recreation staff to help with field use matters, after 2:30pm during the week. Ms. Hess also inquired about the new audit policy. There is concern with the cost and time involved with a yearly review and audits. Mr. Marks stated that he, Mr. Samuelson, Director of Finance Robert Tate and First Selectman Pat Llodra will need to sit down and discuss a policy for auditing Newtown sports organizations. Commissioner Pat Barczak stated that there will need to be clear clarification of what the audit is and how often it will need to be done. Chairman Marks stated that the audit will need to accommodate each group, including the small groups.

**Acceptance of Minutes:**

Special Meeting April 6, 2015

May 12, 2015

**Tabled until June 2015 commission meeting**

**New Business:**

*Capital Improvement Plan:*

* Needs to be completed by August
* Director of Finance Bob Tait wants to look 20 years ahead
* Looking at 10 years ahead at brief description and costs and a bullet list for the additional 10 years.
* It took 6 years to get from 10 to 9% debt service and now the goal is 8%

*Dog Park:*

* Ordered chip for controller, should arrive in 4-6 weeks.
* Parking lot will be paved after infrastructure has been completed by the highway department. This should allow for 5 to 6 more parking spaces.
* Contracted fencing for the small dog area.
* Planted a tree that was donated by Brenda Keene, from her yard. There will be a plaque added stating it was donated in honor of her son.
* Security lighting is going in
* It was suggested replacing damaged log.
* It was also suggested that in the future we look at lightening protection
* It was suggested to place pavers in front of the splash pad where it is difficult to grow grass.

**Correspondence:**

Director Amy Mangold talked about some of the complimentary letters that she received. Some of the comments included:

* How great the Tennis Courts at Treadwell look and that it’s “Game Time”. – John Jaqush
* One letter referenced two of the Parks Department employees; Lou and Joe, stating what an outstanding job they were doing maintaining the fields and the parks look great. – Lyn Hertberg
* A letter from Peter D’Amico of AC Connecticut, of 153 S. Main Street, Newtown requesting modest field time in the fall.

Mr. Marks asked that with the new Field Rules/Regulations policy, if there were some vacant field time, is it on a first come first serve basis? Mr. Samuelson responded yes.

**Chairman’s Report:**

*Chairman Edward Marks:*

* Mr. Marks will get in touch with Kyle Lyddy to inquire about the Sandy Hook Memorial and who is responsible for the long term maintenance and the cost of maintaining.
* Mr. Marks Attended a Community Center meeting with Ms. Mangold to meet the new committee. The committee has requested from Parks and Recreation a list of the top 5 priority items. The new committee will also be sending out a questionnaire to all the town sports organization inquiring of their needs and wants.

**Director’s Report:**

*Assistant Director of Recreation Report, RoseAnn Reggino:*

* Strutt your Mutt was a success and raised $1435, more than last year.
* Ms. Reggino is working on a new event, “Yappy Hour”.
* Mad Dash was a great success with 503 registered runners, up 102 runners from last year. This year’s race had some added obstacles, including a large dirt mound and climbing over a brick wall. The feedback was very positive. Ms. Reggino and the Parks and Rec staff worked with the new director of NYA, Nick Hoffman.
* Ms. Reggino organized a Camp Counselor training in May with Edgewood Consultants. Ms. Reggino is very pleased with the summer staff this year.
* Director Amy Mangold and Ms. Reggino met with NYBA Treasurer, Joe Harrington and explained the surcharge fee $15.00 per head.
* Treadwell Pool and Eichler’s Cove Beach opened on scheduled, Memorial Day weekend.
* There are 5 park wardens on staff this summer.
* The 41st Rooster Run was held on Saturday June 20, 2015.

*Assistant Director of Parks and Fields Report, Carl Samuelson:*

* Treadwell Tennis Courts are open and Pickleball to follow. It has been suggested to put a sign on the Pickleball court letting people know that Pickleball players have priority.
* Additional paving completed at Treadwell, which added parking spaces and a wider driveway.
* Failed pool pump replacement completed
* Additional deer fencing installed at Victory Garden completed.
* Memorial Day Soccer Tournament set up and break down.
* Safety Fiber installed at Treadwell playgrounds.
* NHS senior night and SWC tournament set up.
* Exhaust fan installation at maintenance facility
* Lightning detection system fully serviced and functional.
* Daily watering at Treadwell with SHVFR Tanker.
* All seasonal tasks on regular schedule at this point including mowing, grooming, cleaning and lining.
* FFH Campus Trail progressing.
* Planting of 10 Pear “Survivor Trees” from 9/11.
* 26 bench installs have begun. Ferris Acres, Peter Rabbit House and Dickinson Park will be first locations.
* Eichler’s additional docks scheduled for delivery next week.
* Temporary water hook up started for Treadwell Park.

Mr. Samuelson did speak with BabeRuth Association regarding long term plans. Per his conversation, they have the right amount of fields, especially when Sandy Hook fields open up. Future maintenance plans is to lollipop the fields for the younger players, 8yr and under. Mr. Marks inquired about Walnut Tree field and ability to maintain it. Mr. Samuelson stated that they are looking into the infrastructure and irrigation. The budget to set this up is less because they will be using old equipment from Sandy Hook School. The irrigation system using water from the river will not need a permit if using under a certain amount of water.

*Director of Parks and Recreation Report, Amy Mangold:*

* Ms. Mangold, Ms. Reggiano and Mr. Samuelson are working with Christal Preszler, who is in charge of scheduling events at FairField Hills, with coming up with a new policy and fees for events being held at FairField Hills.
* One of Parks and Recreation staff members is out on maternity leave and the part-time staff member is filling in full time.
* Parks and Recreation is mentoring a student from Ability Beyond Disability. The student will be interning in the office for 40 hours to gain his certification to work in the workforce.

**Old Business:**

*Field waiver request for Newtown FastPitch Softball Association:*

Mr. James Twitchell, President of FastPitch Softball Association explained that FastPitch Softball is requesting a field waiver for the summer 2015. The team had field time in Brookfield, but access has been inhibited due to disagreements outside FastPitch Softball Association control. Mr. Twitchell is requesting field time in Newtown as a supplement. This field time will be used mostly for practice and possibly one game this season. The team is made up of 100% Newtown residents. Mr. Marks has asked Assistant Director of Parks Carl Samuelson to look at the field schedule to see what is available. Mr. Samuelson is looking at the high school for some field time 1 to 2 times a week. Mr. Marks went on to state that the request was put on hold from May’s commission meeting due to needing more time to review the information they received. The waiver request was put on hold at June’s commission meeting, due to a lack of a quorum to vote. Mr. Marks explained to Mr. Twitchell that based on the team being 100% Newtown residents and the waiver process from the spring, that it shouldn’t be an issue to grant the waiver. Mr. Marks did explain to Mr. Twitchell that the field rules and regulations will be changing this fall.

*Field Rules/Regulation Policy:*

Mr. Marks has suggested that there should possibly be a special meeting to get the Field rules and regulation manual approved and implemented prior to the fall sports season.

*Commissioner’s out and about:*

None

Meeting was adjourned at 7:34pm

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

Submitted, Gabriella Chernoff, clerk