

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

The Parks and Recreation Commission held a regular meeting on Tuesday July 14, 2015 in the conference room located at 3 Main Street in Newtown, CT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ed Marks, at 6:04 pm.

Present: Edward Marks, Patrick Barczak, Vincent Yanni, Jr., Maureen Crick Owen, PJ Yochum, Warren Spencer.

Absent: Thomas DiNicola

Staff Present: Amy Mangold, Carl Samuelson, RoseAnn Reggiano

Public: Alexandra Toth, Daniel Toth, James Haynes, James Twitchell, Linda Hess

Public Participation:

Alexandra Toth, Girl Scouts Troop 50628

Ms. Toth came before the board to propose installing a fencing system on the goal side of soccer field A, on Fairfield Hills Campus, as part of earning her Girl Scout Silver Award. Ms. Toth feels that many soccer balls during practice and game times roll out onto the busy street at Fairfield Hills (DG Beers Road) and feels that a fence would prevent possible injuries and keep fellow peers and spectators safe. It also wastes valuable game time chasing after the balls. Ms. Toth also suggested placing a *child at play sign* for drivers to be aware that children are playing and to slow down. Ms. Toth then presented to the board a picture diagram of the field in discussion. Ms. Toth asked the board what she could do to help put up a fencing system and what would the next steps be to do this. Chairman Marks responded by first thanking Ms. Toth for coming in front of the board and presenting a possible solution to a problem, being so observant and her willingness to participate in a solution. Chairman Marks continued that the problem with soccer balls rolling onto the street has been brought to their attention and that there needs to be a resolution. There are long term plans, but feels that a short term plan needs to be put into place, whether it's a hedge as a natural barrier, normal field fencing or post and beam. Chairman Marks requested that Ms. Toth leave contact information and that the Parks and Recreation team will work on some plans and request input from Ms. Toth on what her suggestions are on moving the project along. Parks and Recreation will follow up with Ms. Toth in the next week with any ideas they have as well as discuss any suggestions that Ms. Toth has.

Mr. James Twitchell and Mr. James Haynes, with Newtown Fastpitch Softball Association

Mr. James Twitchell and Mr. James Haynes came before the board to follow up on a previously requested field waiver for the Newtown Fastpitch Softball Association and field time going forward. Mr. Twitchell explained that Fastpitch was previously a travel team with Newtown Babe Ruth U11. The team departed from Babe Ruth to stay together as a team, which is not part of the Babe Ruth policy. Mr. Twitchell went on to explain that the team is currently made up of 100% Newtown players. The original plan was not to utilize Newtown fields; however, the fields they were using in the spring were under dispute between owner of the place and the owner of the property, which left Fastpitch in limbo. Their full summer season ends August 1st, with limited practices until the end of August, when there will be tryouts. Chairman Marks inquired on how the team is selected when there is a vacancy? Mr. Twitchell responded that there will be a tryout for all positions, keeping the roster between 12 to 13 girls.

Motion:

Commissioner Patrick Barczak made a motion to approve Summer 2015 waiver for field use for the Fastpitch Softball Association. Commissioner Vincent Yanni, Jr. second the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion:

Chairman Edward Marks made a motion to approve Minutes from April 14, 2015 Commission Meeting. PJ Yochum second the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Chairman Edward Marks made a motion to approve Minutes from May 12, 2015 Commission meeting. Commissioner Patrick Barczak second the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Due to a lack of a quorum at June 17, 2015 commission meeting, no formal action was taken and just notes were taken.

New Business:

None

Correspondence:

Director Amy Mangold received an email stating: *"Thanks so much the field looks great thanks so much. Pass on to your staff"*, Bobby Elias

Chairman's Report:

None

Director's Report:

Tabled until next commission meeting on August 11, 2015

Old Business:

Field Rules/Regulations Manual:

The Commission concentrated on the **User Organization Categories** portion of the Field Rules/Regulations Manual. Commissioner Pat Barczak described some of the changes that were made to some of the categories, to include the word "and" and "per team", under category A and B; and include the word "or" and "per team" under category C, D and E. Chairman Marks inquired on how to define nonprofit 501C3? Chairman Marks will discuss with Finance Director Bob Tait on how to verify if a sports organization is for non-profit. It would be very difficult for a small organization to get a 501C3, because it could take up to 9 months to obtain and is very expensive. A small sports organization would have 2 choices: 1) Go under another large organization; 2) Go through the process and pay the expenses.

Another challenge to the categories is the question of a new sport and how that sports team would be categorized? If the team of the new sport met all the criteria of category A, but not be legacy, should they be penalized? Chairman Marks stated that a legacy team is a team that has invested capital, time, improvements, equipment, field upkeep and has made investments over the years. Commissioner Barczak stated that if a new sports organization did come to Newtown, then perhaps the commission would possibly need to re-categorize to.

Commissioner Spencer expressed his concern of splintering of existing organizations. Chairman Marks suggested that a new organization would have to start in a lower category, even if it is made up 80% or more Newtown residents. This will allow the new team one year to establish itself, give back to town residents, while protecting the legacy teams. The Commission came up with a definition of a Legacy Team by changing the title to Established Organization of over 5 years.

The difference between Youth and Adult teams is that the Youth teams are scheduled for field time with preference in time allotments and Adult teams are not scheduled and do not have preference time slots. Commissioner Yanni inquired about a calendar program that would allow teams to have access to field usage online. Mr. Samuelson stated that he does have an online program which is called Musco, which also gives him access to lights on the fields.

Commission Samuelson stated that the fee structure is average when compared to other areas. Commissioner Crick Owen stated that she would go through the manual and make any corrections needed.

Mr. Twitchell inquired about the future accounting review structure. Assistant Director Carl Samuelson will talk to the Finance Director Bob Tait about the costs and how often, understanding that for the small teams it could be very expensive. Chairman Marks suggested that possibly a 990 would be sufficient if not a 5013C.

Capital Improvement Projects

5 year capital improvement plan:

(2014-2015)

- Dickinson Parking lot, starting in fall of 2015 \$ 500,000
- Community Center Design \$ 450,000

(2015-2016)

- Treadwell Parking lot, unsure of start date \$ 550,000
- Eichler's Cove improvements \$ 325,000
- Community Center Construction Phase 1 of 3 \$ 9,550,000

(2016-2017)

- Community Center Phase II \$10,000,000

(2017-2018)

- Community Center Phase II \$ 5,000,000
- Eichler's Cove Bathhouse/Concession \$ 500,000

(2018-2019)

- Dickinson Park Phase III \$ 1,300,000
- FairField Hills Field Plan Phase I \$ 500,000

(2019-2020)

- Treadwell Pool Renovation \$ 1,500,000
- Lake Lillinonah Improvements \$ 400,000
- Alpine Drive Improvements \$ 100,000

Round Table Discussion (wish list): Project Plan 20 year vision:

- Large Park in another part of town. At this time there are plans to do a study on small pocket parks, which will be located in each part of town (Botsford, Hawleyville, Dodginton, Sandy Hook). These pocket parks are envisioned to have connections to

routes with easy access to other pocket parks in town. The cost is \$30,000 in the Capital Project budget for a study of pocket plans, costs and functionality. This was cut in 2015-2016 but will be introduced for approval again.

- Open space pavilion with seating to fit up to 500 people. Possibly locating it at the FairField Hills campus.
- Upgrade trails at Pole Bridge Reserve.
- Bike trails throughout town.
- Tennis, basketball and pickle ball courts at FairField Hills.
- Another skateboard park, BMX pit and pump track.
- Obtaining indoor Duplex at FairField Hills for activity programs.
- Turf the back field at Newtown High School, turfing infield at Treadwell Softball and renovating the 2 playgrounds in 20 years.
- Motocross track.
- Ice rink.
- Expansion of Treadwell Park to extend to behind the Sandy Hook School and SAC field.
- Total renovation of the Teen Center.
- More Fishing areas.
- Mobil band stage.
- Rowing pavilion on Lake Zoar off Walnut Tree Hill Road.
- Purchase the house just outside Dickinson Park.

Motion:

Adjournment:

Commissioner Vincent Yanni, Jr. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 pm. This motion was second by Commissioner Patrick Barczak, which was carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 11, 2015 at 6:00 pm at 3 Main Street, Newtown, CT in the conference room.

Submitted, Gabriella Chernoff, clerk