

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

The Parks and Recreation Commission held a special meeting on Tuesday, April 19, 2016, 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, RoseAnn Reggiano, Carl Samuelson

Public: None

Public Participation None

Acceptance of Minutes

Motion:

Correction to January 2016 Minutes: The date was changed from Tuesday, January 12, 2015 to Tuesday, January 12, 2016

Commissioner Maureen Crick Owen made a motion to approve the amended minutes from January 12, 2016 Meeting. Commissioner PJ Yochum seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Motion:

Corrections to March 2016 Minutes:

- The date of the minutes was changed from Tuesday, March 8, 2015 to Tuesday, March 8, 2016.
- There is a correction under the Chairman's report to read instead: *He stated that even though an additional parks maintainer was not included in the budget proposal, there was discussion on the necessity of additional staff and whether the addition of a full time employee was more cost effective than contracting out services.*

Commissioner Pat Barczak made a motion to approve the amended minutes from March 8, 2016 meeting. Commissioner Maureen Crick Owen seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Old Business

Budget:

Mr. Marks explained to the commission that after the Legislative Council meeting, First Selectman Pat Llodra needed to make a reduction of an additional \$60,000 from the Town budget. Ms. Llodra had asked each department to see what they can do to make up for that reduction. Parks and Recreation made a reduction of \$8,000.00 from the capital budget. It was decided to cut the continuation of the phase II recycle bins containers. Possibly using surcharge or finding another way to make it up. Commissioner Spencer inquired if we can use surcharge for the recycling program. Mr. Marks stated that it depends on where the bins are placed and suggested that we wait until after the referendum before taking action on that.

New Business None

Correspondence

Assistant Director RoseAnn received an email from a Torpedoes Swim Team parent, stating how happy she is with the addition of new coaches. The parent feels that with the additional coaches, there is more opportunity to teach proper technique and to explain the reasoning behind each stroke. The coaches are also demonstrating strokes in the water, so the kids can see what to do. She feels the kids are thriving!

Chairman's Report:

Edward Marks, Chairman of Newtown Parks and Recreation Commission:

- Mr. Marks had an opportunity to work with the Sandy Hook Memorial Committee and tour the potential site of the Memorial at Fairfield Hills. Mr. Marks, Ms. Mangold along with the Memorial Committee and Stantec Company mapped out 6 possible path ways to the potential site from the existing walking trail. Some of the criteria's of the Memorial is that it be away from distraction, be a destination spot, while protecting open space. Many considerations go into determining a path to the memorial, including the pitch and grade of a hill to conform to ADA regulations. Mr. Marks explained that any of the potential paths to the Memorial will have minimal, if any impact on the existing Fairfield Hills walking trails. Mr. Marks explained that with the building of the Memorial, it may allow for some improvements to the existing fields and trails, while staying within the conditions of the memorial. Mr. Marks stated that the memorial committee also liked Stantec and their ideas.

Director's Report:

Amy Mangold, Director of Parks and Recreation:

- The Lion's Club is scheduled to have a Work Day on June 11, 2016, at Orchard Hill Nature Preserve.
- The Parks and Recreation commissioners had many questions regarding the new Community Center. Ms. Mangold will schedule an appointment with First Selectman to discuss the future Community Center and the next steps.
- Ms. Mangold stated that Mr. Andrew Mangold met with the Board of Selectman to present the *Fruit Trail Project*. Mr. Mangold will report back to the board of Selectman with feedback from the community.
- The Parks and Recreation Department is currently handing out the 2016 Summer Concert Series with the names of Bands that will be appearing and dates of concerts, to be held at Dickinson Park.
- Ms. Mangold, Ms. Reggiano and Mr. Samuelson had a meeting with a Disc Golf planner to talk about a possible 18 hole course. One location up for consideration is the out skirts of Treadwell Park, where the meandering trails are. Ms. Mangold stated that this would be a great use of unused recreational space. The proposal came back at \$20,000 for the course. Ms. Mangold and Mr. Samuelson feel that the overall cost of the project could be upwards of approximately \$50,000 to do it right. Mr. Marks stated that this might be a good project for someone that wanted to make a donation.

RoseAnn Reggiano, Assistant Director of Recreation:

- The annual Flashlight Egg Hunt was held on Friday March 18, 2016, and was attended by over 100 participants. It was the largest turnout since Ms. Reggiano started doing the Flashlight Egg Hunt. The Egg Hunt for 8 year olds and younger was held on Saturday, March 19, 2016 and was attended by over 200 participants.
- Ms. Reggiano has just finished up interviewing and hiring the 2016 Summer Staff. Ms. Carolyn Fagerholm has been hired as the new Waterfront Director. Training for all Summer Staff will begin in the next month.
- A *Garden Party* is scheduled for May 1, 2016, at the Victory Garden, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. There will be a guest appearance by Dr. Joe with drums, as well as pollinators, llamas; and Hollandia is donating seeds.
- *Strutt Your Mutt* will be held on May 14, 2016, from 11:00am to 3:00pm at Fairfield Hills.

- *Senior Prom* for senior citizens is scheduled for May 20, 2016, from 4:00pm to 8:00pm at Newtown High School Café. Brian Neumeyer from the Newtown High School Culinary Department will be providing the food.
- *Mad Dash* will be held on June 11, 2016, from 7:00am to 1:00pm at Fairfield Hills.
- The *Annual Rooster Run* is on June 18, 2016, from 7:00am to 11:00am at Fairfield Hills.
- The Newtown Bee published 2 large stories in the Bee advertising our Summer Camps.
- Ms. Reggiano inquired on the policy of renting the fields when renting out the pavilion? Can one rent both? Mr. Samuelson responded that one can rent the fields and it is based on *category E* in the new Fields Administrative Manual.
- Ms. Reggiano has invited the commissioners to stop by any of the events and if available can volunteer to help out.

Carl Samuelson, Assistant Director of Parks:

- The Parks Department staff is now in full swing with fields open and school sports using facilities on a daily basis.
- Spring clean-up at Dickinson Park has been completed. Will be tending to a few minor things at the playground and pavilion, but overall things are looking good. Stantec Company is working on the parking lot details which should be ready soon. There was a well-attended coach's clinic at Dickinson Park to educate coaches on field maintenance practices. It went very well and NBRBS deserves a mention for organizing the event.
- The Fields at Treadwell Park are being well used as well as the lights on a daily basis. The lighting struggles from earlier this year have all been repaired. Aside from some vandalism, the culprit was a mouse which had nested and chewed through a fair amount of wires in the control panel. The bathrooms at Treadwell are now running on city water from the new pump station at SHES. The irrigation system is being completed in the tennis court beds and will be turning that portion on as soon as is completed. The bed will be fully planted once that happens. The diving boards are expected back from Nevada after being fully renovated this winter.
- The docks at Lake Lillinonah were installed for the beginning of fishing season.
- Field mowing and early fertility have started at Fairfield Hills. The baselines of High Meadow field are currently be sodded.
- Thursday will be the final hurdle in the Glander 3 permitting phase. Anticipated construction to start within 2 weeks. Will need to put up public notice regarding slightly rerouting walking trail 30ft to give room for baseball field. Glander 1 and 2 are open for play.
- Liberty Fields are open for play; the irrigation will be running by the end of the week.
- The field at Oakview is open. The goal mouths from late fall wear were sodded and the irrigation is up and running.
- Soccer and Softball fields are open and very busy. Irrigation will be running as soon as tennis court tie in is complete.
- Will be installing all the docks, including the new docks at Eichler's Cove Marina. Stantec is finishing the parking lot specs, which will go out at the same time as Dickinson's specs.
- The Newtown High School fields have been completed and being used. The renovation work went very well and looks great. The other fields are all lined and in use for school sports.
- Splash pads and fountains will be running in May.
- There continues to be vandalism at all parks and hoping to add security cameras once the budget is approved.
- There was a brief discussion regarding the Field Administrative Manual and use categories. After review the commission decided to leave the categories as is.

Commissioners Out and About:

Commissioner PJ Yochum has been attending Pickle Ball practices/games, which she really enjoyed and would recommend. Ms. Yochum stated that many people were inquiring about upcoming Pickle Ball programs.

Motion:

Commissioner Vincent Yanni, Jr. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm. This motion was seconded by Commissioner PJ Yochum, which was carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 6:00 pm at 3 Main Street, Newtown, CT in the conference room.

Submitted, Gabriella Chernoff, clerk