

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

The Parks and Recreation Commission held a regular meeting on Tuesday, May 10, 2016, in the conference room located at 3 Main Street in Newtown, CT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ed Marks, at 6:00 pm.

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

Absent: PJ Yochum, Thomas DiNicola.

Staff Present: Amy Mangold, Carl Samuelson

Staff Absent: RoseAnn Reggiano

Public: Linda Hess, Newtown Soccer Club, Melissa Horan, Community Swimming

Public Participation: None

Acceptance of Minutes

Motion:

Corrections to the minutes from April 19, 2016 commission special meeting are as follows:

- Under the category **Correspondence**, the word stokes was changed to strokes.
- Under the category **Chairman's Report**, the paragraph was changed to:

Mr. Marks, Ms. Mangold and the Memorial Committee had an opportunity to visit the potential memorial site at Fairfield Hills. Later Stantec presented 6 possible ways to access the potential memorial site at Fairfield Hills. Stantec considered many factors in providing the 6 possible ways to access the memorial. Mr. Marks explained that any of the potential ways to the memorial would have minimal, if any impact on the existing Fairfield Hills walking trails.

Commissioner Maureen Crick Owen made a motion to approve the minutes as amended from April 19, 2016 Meeting. Commissioner Patrick Barczak seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Mr. Marks explained to the commission that the Board of Selectmen appointed a new advisory committee for the Community Center. This team will advise and provide support to the community center design/construction team, with the leadership of owner's representative Geralyn Hoerauf. •Work with the consultant on the implementation of the feasibility study •Provide insight and advice regarding program planning •Reflect space needs interests of stakeholders/residents •Participate in consensus building to help prioritize design choices. The team consists of 8 people from the original community center committee as well as Ms. Amy Mangold, Director of Parks and Recreation, and a Parks and Recreation Commissioner. Mr. Marks was looking for a P&R commissioner to volunteer to be on the new community center advisory committee. Commissioner Maureen Crick Owen volunteered for the position. There was a question regarding if the advisory committee would have any objection to having a backup P&R commissioner to fill in as a backup? Mr. Marks will ask the Board of Selectmen if there would be any objection.

- Mr. Marks wanted to discuss and possibly take action on the scoreboard for the Newtown High School Pool. After some discussion, it was decided to table any action until next month, after more research is done on the cost of a scoreboard.

Correspondence: None

Chairman's Report:

Edward Marks, Chairman of Newtown Parks and Recreation Commission:

- Mr. Marks is invited to a CIP Department Meeting in June.
- Mr. Marks, Ms. Mangold and Mr. Samuelson are in the process of preparing a presentation of the Parks and Recreation master plan, to present to the Legislative Council in June 2016. Mr. Marks will be presenting the Parks and Recreation work chart.
- Mr. Marks wanted to discuss the letter that was sent to the, *Letters To The Editor, Whose Decision Is It?* The Parks and Recreation Department has had 2 projects they have been working on. 1) The Fairfield Hills Trails since 2012-13, which they were working closely with Fairfield Hills Authority. 2) Glander Field (1 field), which they went to Fairfield Hills Authority in March of 2015 and discussed the master plan. Ms. Mangold stated that Christal Preszler and George Benson have requested to have meetings with Public Works, Parks and Recreation, and Land Use once a month to keep an open dialogue of all happenings and future plans at Fairfield Hills. The information will then be reported back to Fairfield Hills Authority.

Director's Report:

Amy Mangold, Director of Parks and Recreation:

- Ms. Mangold asked if each P&R commissioner would sign a Thank You card to send to Ms. Alex Toth, Girl Scouts Troop 50628. Ms. Toth came before the commission in July 2015 to propose installing a fencing system to keep the soccer balls from going into the street, on the goal side of soccer field A, on Fairfield Hills Campus. Ms. Toth continues to follow up with Ms. Mangold on the progress of this project. Mr. Samuelson stated that they installed a temporary backstop fencing (netting) to keep balls from going into the road, until the Land Use Agency can move forward with a more permanent solution. This temporary backstop seems to be working well. Ms. Hess, Newtown Soccer is the one that actually came up the idea for Oakview Field, to prevent soccer balls going into the creek.
- *Senior Prom* for senior citizens is scheduled for Friday, May 20, 2016, from 4:00pm to 8:00pm at the Newtown High School Café. The NHS Culinary Department will be providing the food for the buffet dinner. There will also be a DJ and photo booth at the event. The P&R department has been sending out flyers and tickets for the event and The Newtown Bee wrote a story on the upcoming event, which was published on May 7, 2016.
- The *Garden Party* that was held on May 1, 2016, at the Victory Garden, had a good turnout, despite the rain.
- United Way - Day of Action is on June 2, 2016. United Way will be sending 12 to 15 skilled volunteers to the community and some of the workers will be dedicated to helping build the butterfly gardens at Fun Space II in Dickinson Park. Billie Cohen will be supervising the project.
- Mr. Andrew Mangold, Lead Coordinator for *The Newtown Fruit Trail*, has set up the design idea for the public to view at the Cyrenius H. Booth Library. Per Ms. Mangold, Mr. Mangold has a meeting on Monday with the Board of Selectmen and then with the Fairfield Hills Authority to see if he can proceed with the project. Mr. Mangold would like to start his planting June 11-12th time frame. The Newtown Board of Realtors is donating \$3,000.00 towards the Fruit Trail Project, but wouldn't be able to donate before the projected start date. The commission had a discussion on ways to be able to help contribute financially to the Fruit Trail.

Motion:

Commissioner Vincent Yanni made a motion to approve using \$5,000.00 out of the Newtown Parks and Recreation Gift Fund, as an advancement for the Board of Realtors \$3,000.00 contribution, as well as a \$2,000.00 contribution from Parks and Recreation, to put towards the Fruit Trail Project; Subject to the approval to proceed with the Fruit Tree Project from the Board of Selectman and the Fairfield Hills Authority. Also, subject to a written agreement that the Board of Realtors contributes \$3,000.000 back to the Parks and Recreation Gift Fund. Commissioner Warren Spencer seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Carl Samuelson, Assistant Director of Parks:

- Mr. Samuelson reported that the parks in pretty good shape, despite the week of rain.
- Expecting final Stantec parking lot plans in the next couple of weeks. He will go out to bid on both Dickinson and Eichler's Cove together, at the same time. Projects will need to begin after camp and busy season.
- Some final irrigation construction at Treadwell Park has kept a few areas dug up, but overall things look good.
- The refurbished diving boards for Treadwell Pool have arrived. Lindquist security will be addressing a few lock issues at the pool house before the pool opens.
- The pool is up and running for the season. The water is getting clearer every day.
- The permitting for Glander Field is complete and construction has begun. Public Works has started some tree removal and Parks Department is installing erosion control. Glander Field 1 and 2 are open for play.
- Growth regulators were applied on Liberty Fields and Oakview Field.
- There was some vandalism done to the fencing at Walnut Tree Field. The vandal was caught, and is paying for damages.
- The new docks and jet-ski slips are installed at Eichler's Cove Marina. Received plans for the parking area of Eichler's Cove, which look good; however, more wall will be required than originally planned.
- The back fields at NHS look great, except for the excessive wear on the football/lacrosse field.
- The parking lot paving has been completed at the Dog Park. The erosion netting has been removed and all of the water fountains have been fixed.

Commissioners Out and About: None Reported

Motion:

Commissioner Patrick Barczak made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Warren Spencer, which was carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 14, 2016 at 6:00 pm at 3 Main Street, Newtown, CT in the conference room.

Submitted, Gabriella Chernoff, clerk