

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 12, 2016, in the conference room located at 3 Main Street in Newtown, CT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ed Marks, at 6:01 pm.

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

Absent: Warren Spencer.

Staff Present: Amy Mangold, Carl Samuelson, RoseAnn Reggiano.

Public: Linda Hess, Newtown Soccer Club; Linda Zukauskas, Voices News.

Public Participation:

None

Acceptance of Minutes:

Acceptance of June 14, 2016: tabled until next meeting.

Old Business:

- *CIP planning and P&R priorities:*

The current approved P&R Capital Improvement Plan Projects:

- 2016-17 – Treadwell Parking Improvements - \$500,000 (funded through bonding)
- 2017-18 - Eichler’s Cove Improvements (phase 2 of 2) - \$500,000 (funded through bonding)
 - A new bathhouse to provide showers, changing facilities, sinks & toilets
- 2018–19 - Dickinson Park Phase (3 of 4) - \$1,300,000 (funded through bonding)
 - To install a splash pad, bathhouse, and replace the pavilion.
- 2019-20 - Tilson Field Artificial Turf Replacement - \$500,000 (funded through surcharge)

Mr. Marks explained to the commission that in a meeting with the First Selectman, Finance Director Bob Tait and town departments there was discussion regarding future priorities and when listing those priorities be able to defend those projects. Mr. Marks wants the P&R commission to take a look at the list of priorities for the next 5 years and beyond. Phase 3 of the Trail Project that was thought to be in the CIP and sponsored by FFA, has been reallocated towards demolition and remediation. So at this time there is no money in the FFA CIP for phase 3 of the Trail Project. Director Amy Mangold feels that the trail at Fairfield Hills is a benefit to the campus and not completing the project would be a mistake. The Trails bring people to campus which is helping revitalize Fairfield Hills. The commission discussed possibly postponing the replacement the pavilion at Dickinson and put the money towards completing the trails. Mr. Marks has requested that Assistant Director of Parks get pricing to finish the trail and to include adding access ability up the steep hill part of the trail. Other discussions included: Finishing the trail without bathrooms for now; Building splash pad with bathhouse at Dickinson; and push out replacing of the pavilion. P&R may ask FFA if it would be ok for P&R to add finishing the Trail into CIP or does FFA have plans of adding back into FFA CIP. There were also inquiries if the splash pad location at Fairfield Hills would be better than Dickinson. Ms. Mangold responded that Dickinson is the ideal location due to the benefit it would have for day camp. Ms. Mangold reminded the commission that when doing a project like the splash pad that there are restrictions that need to be met. Mr. Marks inquired if P&R would need to add staff with the addition of a splash pad? Ms. Mangold responded that yes, that a lifeguard would need to be added as well as possibly a gate guard. Staffing will also depend on state codes and the approved design.

There was also discussion on replacing Treadwell pool decking. At this time it is in need of repair. To replace pool decking and fencing it would be a rough estimate \$350,000.00 to \$400,000.00. The commission came up with a new preliminary project list:

- 2017-18 – Treadwell Pool deck replacement
- 2018 -19 – Fairfield Hills Trail
- 2019-20 - Eichler’s Cove Improvements
- 2020-21 - Dickinson Pavilion

Ms. Mangold, Mr. Samuelson and Ms. Reggiano will take a look at each project on the list and research each project when prioritizing. The P&R staff will present next month to the commission their results and discuss their opinion on the P&R priorities projects list.

- *Community Center Advisory Committee Update:*

Director Amy Mangold and Commissioner Maureen Crick Owen are on the Community Center advisory committee. The two have been in touch via phone conference with a team NSA that was hired by the town to help implement a feasibility study for the Community Center business development. Once the team has completed the report, there will be a meeting with the CCAC to discuss options and the next steps in the process.

New Business:

- *P&R presentation to Legislative Council:* tabled until next meeting.
- *Appointment of New Commissioner:*

There is currently a republican vacancy on the Parks & Recreation commission. Chairman Marks reached out to the Republican Town Committee to review the process. Mr. Marks stated that he had also reached out to Ms. Linda Hess to see if she was interested in filling the position. Ms. Hess sent a Bio letter to Republican Town Committee. Mr. Marks received a letter from the office of the First Selectman explaining that if a commission is filling a vacancy that has gone unfilled for more than 45 days the commission appoints the replacement.

Motion:

Mr. Vincent Yanni, Jr. made a motion to appoint Ms. Linda Hess to the Parks and Recreation commission to finish remainder of Mr. Thomas DiNicola’s term. Commissioner Ms. Maureen Owen Crick seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The next step will be for Ms. Linda Hess to be sworn in by the Town Clerk.

- *Parks and Recreation Surcharge Account Review:* tabled to until next meeting

Correspondence: Retired Athletic Director, Gregg Simon was quoted in the Newtown Bee as saying: *“We have the best parks and recreation department in the state of Connecticut, unquestionably”*

Director’s Report:

Amy Mangold, Director of Parks and Recreation:

- Ms. Mangold was excited to discuss the Pump Track Demonstration from American Ramp Company at Fairfield Campus today and was enjoyed by many people of all ages.
- Ms. Mangold is getting many requests for Pickle Ball courts at Fairfield Hill Campus. Ms. Mangold would like to set up a temporary court at Fairfield Hills. It would be a matter of painting lines on a clean paved area. Players would be able to pick up temporary net and supplies at Parks and Recreation.
- Friday, July 15, 2016 will be the Newtown Realtors Volunteer Day on The Fruit Trail. The volunteers will be weeding and mulching the Fruit Trail.

- Ms. Mangold stated that Superintendent Dr. Erardi reached out to P&R to do some programming in the New Sandy Hook School in August. It would be a nice way to get Newtown residents to visit the school and get involved.
- P&R first outdoor movie is on August 9, 2016, at 8:30pm at Fairfield Hills. The movie is Zootopia. The event is being sponsored by Newtown Parks and Recreation, Prevention Council and Chamber of Commerce. This event is free to the public and will take place on the soccer field at Fairfield Hills.
- Ms. Mangold received a letter from Securitas, P&R security company, regarding the new craze of Pokemon Go. It details the pros and cons of this new cell phone game and what to be aware of.

Carl Samuelson, Assistant Director of Parks:

- Mr. Samuelson reported that mid-summer is typically the busiest time of the year with day camp, sports camps in session, and all waterfront facilities open. As is typical in the summer, there is an estimated two full timers on vacation most weeks, which affects productivity.
- Regular grooming and mowing schedules are modified to work around camp hours.
- The holes on the camp room roof have been repaired as well as closing off the areas above the pavilion lighting to keep birds from nesting.
- The new planting beds at Dickinson are being watered daily.
- Dickinson parking lot plans are all set and will have a finalized easement soon.
- Most of the flower beds at Treadwell have been mulched. The plant material arrived for the tennis court beds, which will be planted in the next two weeks.
- Treadwell pool has been very busy and operating well. The cameras have been fixed, which will help with security at nighttime.
- The last of the material for the block wall at Treadwell has arrived and will be installed once camp has ended.
- Some dock repairs were completed at Lake Lillinonah and the flower beds have been weeded and mulched.
- The Mad Dash breakdown, cleanup and some grass repair at Fairfield Hills has been completed. Construction of Glander 3 is going very well. The project is slightly ahead of schedule.
- The crew has extended the Victory Garden irrigation to help water the Fruit Trail plantings at Fairfield Hills.
- The goal mouth areas at Oakview are starting to recover nicely from the spring season.
- The fence at Walnut Tree Park has been repaired after vandalism.
- Working on some irrigation changes at the NHS fields to make better use of the water that is being used.
- The water shutoff at the Dog Park keeps being shut off by someone other than the parks crew, which may require a locked enclosure.
- Mr. Samuelson discussed with the commission the benefits of hiring 2 part-time parks employees vs 1 full-time parks employee.
- Mr. Samuelson has requested \$10,000.00 from P&R surcharge for the completion of the new baseball field at Glander. The money would go towards: irrigation; sod; labor; and miscellaneous items.
- Mr. Marks will talk to both Babe Ruth Baseball and Babe Ruth Softball regarding helping with the Glander Field project. Ms. Mangold will check with Finance Director Bob Tait that if an organization does contribute that it can be put into the surcharge account.

Motion:

Commissioner Patrick Barczak made a motion to give the Parks Department \$10,000.00 from the Parks and Recreation Surcharge, to complete the project at Glander Baseball Field, to include: irrigation, sod; materials; and miscellaneous items. Commissioner P.J. Yochum seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

RoseAnn Reggiano, Assistant Director of Recreation:

- Ms. Reggiano stated that 177 runners participated in the annual Rooster Run on Saturday, June 18, 2016. The event raised \$1,300.00 for the scholarship. Ms. Reggiano stated that Becky Osborne will be the new coordinator for the Rooster Run.
- Ms. Reggiano reported that camp was going well and that the camp enrollment was up. Ms. Reggiano had to hire another camp counselor to help with the increase in enrollment at Dickinson Park.
- Ms. Reggiano and staff have started preparing for the fall programs.

Commissioners Out and About:

Commissioner P.J. Yocum reminded the commission that the Parent Connection open house at Fairfield Hills will be on July 25, 2016.

Motion:

Commissioner Vincent Yanni Jr. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 pm. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Pat Barczak, which was carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 9, 2016 at 6:00 pm at 3 Main Street, Newtown, CT in the conference room.

Submitted, Gabriella Chernoff, clerk