

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

The Parks and Recreation Commission held a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 13, 2016 in the conference room located at 3 Main Street in Newtown, CT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ed Marks, at 6:06 pm.

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

Absent: Patrick Barczak

Staff Present: Amy Mangold, Carl Samuelson, RoseAnn Reggiano

Public: John O’Leary, President of the Newtown Youth Basketball Association.

Public Participation:

John O’Leary, President of NYBA came before the commission to inquire if NYBA can be reimbursed for sticky boards the association had to purchase last season, to compensate for the slippery floors in gyms A & B at the Newtown Middle School. The NYBA spent a couple of hundred dollars last season on sticky boards. Chairman Marks told Mr. O’Leary to submit the invoices to P&R. Mr. O’Leary also inquired about gym use at the Sandy Hook School. Mr. O’Leary stated that NYBA was using NYA for some of its leagues, but that the venue was too large for some of the younger players. P&R is currently putting together some activities that will also be utilizing Sandy Hook School as well, so Ms. Reggiano, Assistant Director of Recreation will take a look at the schedule and get back to Mr. O’Leary with some time slots. Mr. O’Leary stated that he will take any available gym time, at the Sandy Hook School.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion:

Commissioner Vincent Yanni, Jr. made a motion to approve the Minutes from August 9, 2016 Commission Meeting. Commissioner PJ Yochum seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Old Business:

- *Community Center Advisory Committee Update:*

Director Amy Mangold and Commissioner Maureen Crick Owen had a conference call with the Community Center Advisory committee and SFA team on Thursday, September 1, 2016. Ms. Crick Owen stated that SFA presented results and made recommendations of their research on Community Center in terms of costs, revenue and programmable activities. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14, 2016 to discuss the next steps in the process. Ms. Mangold and Mr. Marks, in place of Ms. Crick Owen, will be attending the next scheduled meeting.

- *CIP planning and P&R priorities:*

The commission reviewed and discussed the Board of Selectman CIP 2017 to 2022 - Working Request for Parks & Recreation:

- 2017-2018 – Treadwell Pool Deck Replacement -\$400,000
- 2018-2019 – Eichler’s Cove Improvements Phase II of II - \$500,000

- 2019-2020 - Fairfield Hills Trail/Infrastructure -\$500,000
Tilson Turf Replacement - \$500,000
- 2020-2021 - Dickinson Bath house and Splashpad - \$850,000
- 2021-2022 - Dickinson Pavilion Replacement -\$450,000
Duplex remediation for P&R use and programing - \$800,000

Mr. Marks has requested that each commissioner think about new ideas and projects they would like to see for P&R. Mr. Marks then asked for each commissioner to submit their prioritized list before the next scheduled commission meeting in October. Mr. Samuelson suggested that the commission add installing bleachers at Treadwell Park, which has an approximate price of \$100,000.00. It has been on the list in the past and is something that Mr. Samuelson feels would be a nice enhancement to Treadwell Park.

New Business:

- *Parks and Recreation Surcharge Account Review:*

The commission had an opportunity to take a look at the current surcharge spread sheet. The commission has requested that P&R office staff update the surcharge spread sheet to include: Motions that have been approved with dollar amount and the actual amount spent. Mr. Marks has requested that this new spread sheet be available for next month's meeting for the commissioners to take a look at. The commission would like to review the surcharge every 3 months.

Correspondence:

- Ms. Mangold received an email from a Newtown resident thanking P&R for fixing the trail at Dickinson Park and the fast response to rectifying the problem.
- Mr. Marks wanted to give kudos to 2 park maintainers that he overheard talking to a Newtown citizen regarding the rational and logistics of the building of Glander field 3. The discussion was clear and decisive of the project and goals.

Director's Report:

Amy Mangold, Director of Parks and Recreation:

- Ms. Mangold is in the process of completing employee reviews.
- Ms. Mangold stated that one of the parks maintainer is leaving to take a job in another town for more money.
- The free concert at Dickinson on Sunday, September 11, 2016 to honor National Grandparents Day and the 15th Anniversary of September 11th was well attended. The band that played was the *Survivor Swing Band* and was enjoyed by all.
- Parks and Recreation Business Magazine would like to do an article on the Fruit Trail and reached out to Andrew Mangold, Originator of the Fruit Trail. Ms. Mangold stated that there was a Fruit Trail work party on Sunday, September 11, 2016 and a lot of people showed up to help with cultivating the trail.
- Ms. Mangold continues the discussion on the idea of putting in a Disc Golf course behind Treadwell Park with Rob Sibley, Deputy Director of Planning and Land Use. Mr. Sibley thinks that placing a Disc Golf course in that area behind Treadwell Park would be good use of the land and wonderful addition of recreation.
- P&R are sponsoring 2 bands at the Cultural Arts Festival, to be held on Saturday, September 17th and Sunday, September 18, 2016.

RoseAnn Reggiano, Assistant Director of Recreation:

- Enrollment is up for all P&R activities. Ms. Reggiano stated that Jennifer Arnold, secretary is doing a great job sending out emails and Facebook alerts and capturing the attention of a lot of people.
- Over 500 people attended the first outdoor movie night held at Fairfield Hills campus. It was enjoyed by a multigenerational audience. Ferris Ice Cream was on site and sold out of ice cream! Ms. Reggiano wanted to thank Erin Masotta, P&R staff and Matt Ariniello, with NY&F for all their input and hard work. Ms. Reggiano stated that cosponsors Newtown Prevention Council and The Chamber of Commerce were also very involved in the success of the event.

- Ms. Reggiano was excited to share with the commission that summer camp was the *best summer camp ever*. Ms. Reggiano stated that enrollment was up at both camps. Treadwell was up 50+ campers from last year and Dickinson was up over 30 campers. Ms. Reggiano hired more super excited staff to help with the increase in enrollment.
- Fall 2016 brochure has been completed and available to the public via newspaper brochure or online.
- September 22, 2016 free introduction class to pickle ball at Fairfield Hills campus at 5:30pm
- October 26, 2016 is the eight and under Halloween Party at Dickinson Park
- October 28, 2016 is the 5th and 6th grade Halloween Party
- October 29, 2016 is the “Howl O Ween” party at the Dog Park
- November 4, 2016 is the Family Turkey Shoot
- December 3, 2016 is Breakfast with Santa
- P&R is planning a *Little Miss Valentine Dance* in February 2017, to be held at the Sandy Hook School. Lots of fun activities including a DJ and photo booth.
- P&R is offering a new culinary class for kids at the NHS. Brian Neumeyer the culinary instructor will be teaching this class.
- Rooster Run is scheduled for April 29, 2016. Becky Osbourne is the new coordinator for this event. Ian Hockley has suggested that possibly partnering up with his run “Dylan’s Wings Run”.
- Some other activities to be scheduled for the winter months including: pickle ball, adult volleyball, floor hockey, to name a few....

The commission and P&R staff discussed the increasing demand for gym and field time for many of these activities and sports organizations and the challenges of scheduling time without rosters. One suggestion that the commission offered was that P&R cannot schedule gym or field time until surcharge from the previous year has been received as well as rosters, so it can be determined how much space and time is needed.

Carl Samuelson, Assistant Director of Parks:

- The summer drought has leaves falling early this year. Fall sports season as well as fall tasks have begun.
- Some playground upkeep and pavilion repair is on the horizon at Dickinson Park. The parking lots specs are at finance for bidding this week.
- Treadwell pool is closed for the season; however, the pool is kept running until the end of October to help with spring water clarity. One of the pool motors is not working, which will be repaired in the off season. The retaining wall at Treadwell Park is on schedule to be completed this fall. Stantec has started work on the Treadwell parking lot specifications for bidding this fall. The basketball court lighting at Treadwell has lost power to one of its poles and looking into having this repaired.
- Looking into grading Lake Lillinonah boat ramp this fall, when the lake is lowered, usually in October.
- Fairfield Hill campus duties continue to grow, but overall things are in good shape. Winter project and pruning list at Fairfield Hills is growing rapidly. Dog bag usage at Fairfield Hills has officially exceeded 24,000 bags for the summer.
- Construction of Glander 3 is still going very well. Irrigation, clay, backstop, sod and grading of field surfaces are complete. The outfield was seeded 10 days ago and germinating nicely. Peripheral work will be completed in the next few weeks.
- A larger scale renovation plan for Liberty Fields is in progress, to make it a true softball complex.
- Oakview Field was aerated and seeded and is in good shape. A failed backflow prevention device was replaced as well.
- Treadwell Soccer/Softball field was aerated this week as fall sports are in full swing.
- Things are showing the effects of a dry summer at Walnut Tree, but cooler fall weather will help things recover.
- Swimming has ended for the season at Eichler’s Cove and in a few weeks boats will be coming out as well. The parking lot specs for Eichler’s Cove are completed and in the process of being bid by the finance department.
- The back fields at NHS are in good shape. The lightning damage has been repaired and things have recovered from a week or two of limited water.
- Mr. Rob Sibley, Deputy Director of Planning and Land Use has given approval for batting cages at Liberty Field

- Mr. Samuelson Attended Pop Warner Football meeting to talk about football at Hawley School. The club is shrinking from 350 to 250 players.

Commissioners out and about: none to report

Motion:

Commissioner Vincent Yanni Jr. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 pm. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Warren Spencer, which was carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 11, 2016 at 6:00 pm at 3 Main Street, Newtown, CT in the conference room.

Submitted by,

Gabriella Chernoff, clerk