

**TORRINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 4, 2009**

Chairperson Patricia Fairchild called to order a regular meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission at 6:17 PM on Wednesday, February 4, 2009 at the Armory. In attendance were Chairperson Fairchild, Secretary Dan Lovallo, Commissioner Duke Wall, Commissioner Jim Pescatore, Superintendent Brett Simmons, and Recreation Director Donna Winn. Absent was Vice Chair Fran Ducotey.

ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES:

A motion was made by Commissioner Lovallo, seconded by Commissioner Wall, and all were in favor to approve the minutes from the January 12, 2009 regular meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pescatore, seconded by Commissioner Lovallo, and all were in favor to approve the minutes from the January 21, 2009 special meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Mr. Bill Nataro and Mr. Roger Fulton addressed the Commission, explaining to them that they felt they were charged in error for the use of the Coe Memorial Civic Center for an umpires meeting, and requested that the fees be waived. Chairperson Fairchild informed them that the Commission would take this up under Other Business.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lovallo and seconded by Commissioner Wall to change the order of the agenda. All were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mark McEachern from the Torrington Historical Society informed the Commission that he and Mr. John Long were in the process of collecting information on Christmas Village for the purpose of making a documentary on the Village. They requested that the Commission allow permission for them to have access to the Village, and for employees to continue to get information. A motion was made by Commissioner Pescatore and seconded by Commissioner Wall to allow the request for the making of the documentary. All were in favor.

FACILITY REQUESTS:

A motion was made by Commissioner Lovallo and seconded by Commissioner Wall to approve the pre-approved requests from Richard Good, T.P.D., Cystic Fibrosis, T.P.D. Exam, and the National Youth Services. All were in favor.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pescatore and seconded by Commissioner Wall to grant tentative approval to the American Legion Tournament pending approval of the bid for the tournament in Torrington. All were in favor.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wall and seconded by Commissioner Lovallo to grant tentative approval to the Tri-State League for a Mothers Day Tournament. All were in favor.

PROGRAM UPDATE:

Donna updated the Commission on upcoming recreation programs, and informed the Commission that she had sent out letters to all staffing personnel for all of the summer programs. Donna stated that all is going well, and she is moving forward with all the upcoming events.

COE MEMORIAL PARK UPDATE:

The Commission had a discussion on the proposed budget for Coe Memorial Park, and a motion was made by Commissioner Lovallo and seconded by Commissioner Pescatore to recommend to the City Council Superintendent Simmons' proposed budget with an increase of 2.45% and stated that any unused monies be returned to the Coe Trust. All were in favor.

Chairperson Fairchild informed the Commission that the Coe Memorial Park Advisory Committee approved in a vote of 3 to 2 (with one abstained) the contract for horticultural services at Coe Memorial Park. There were additions to the contract being a dual indemnity clause and a termination clause added to the contract.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lovallo and seconded by Commissioner Pescatore to recommend to the City Council approval of the contract with the mentioned changes. All were in favor.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pescatore and seconded by Commissioner Lovallo to recommend to City Council approval of the contract with Artistic Irrigation for services at Coe Memorial Park. All were in favor.

CHRISTMAS VILLAGE UPDATE:

Brett reported to the Commission that he will be starting to look into a plan of attack for the Village for next year, and will be checking into a fundraiser of selling pavers to raise money for the renovations at the Village.

OLD BUSINESS:

LOGO CONTEST

The winners of the Logo Contest were announced: Dan Balducci was first place, and second place was Piotr Ferenc. Brett stated that he will be working on making some changes to get more of a fit for the department.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Commission reviewed the new Field Use Request Form, and a motion was made by Commissioner Lovallo and seconded by Commissioner Wall to approve the new form. All were in favor.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lovallo and seconded by Commissioner Pescatore to change the order of the agenda. All were in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Commissioner Lovallo and seconded by Commissioner Wall to put the request from the Umpires on the agenda. All were in favor. After a discussion on waving the fees for the A.S.A. Umpires, a motion was made by Commissioner Wall and seconded by Commissioner Pescatore to deny without prejudice the request to waive the fees, but to offer payment options to help accommodate the payment. All were in favor.

Commissioner Wall recommended installing the old backboards from the Armory on the far wall for practice use only. Brett will be checking into this to see if it can be done, or if it may be a safety issue.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

Brett reported to the Commission that the roof repairs at the Armory will be put off to allow for better weather. Brett stated that he has been meeting with the T.F.D. to figure out the best way to proceed with the demolition at the Machuga Property.

Quality Welding will be doing repairs on the fire escape at the Armory.

Brett requested that additional capital funds be allowed for a few projects that need to be taken care of. Brett stated that \$1,025 is needed for extension of the temporary fence rental at the Besse Playscape, along with \$1,500 for paint and supplies for the skatepark. Brett also recommended raising the amount of \$18,000 to \$22,000 for the purchase of the zero turn mower. In addition, capital funds were required for updated drains at the pool, as necessary by new regulations. A motion was made by Commissioner Lovallo and seconded by Commissioner Pescatore to approve the request for the capital funds. All were in favor.

Brett informed the Commission that several updates to various equipment at the pool will need to be completed. Brett requested that \$3,500 be transferred from the Besse Trust to purchase pool equipment. A motion was made by Commissioner Pescatore and seconded by Commissioner Lovallo to approve moving the \$3,500 from the Besse Trust. All were in favor.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Commissioner Pescatore and second by Commissioner Lovallo, all were in favor to adjourn at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Daniel Lovallo, Secretary