

Torrington Parks and Recreation Commission

Minutes of Meeting

April 8, 2009

Chairperson Patricia Fairchild called to order a regular meeting of the Torrington Parks and Recreation Commission on Wednesday, April 8, 2009, at 6:00 P.M. at the Armory. In attendance were Secretary Dan Lovallo, Commissioner Jim Pescatore, Superintendent Brett Simmons, and Recreation Director Donna Winn.

On a motion by Dan Lovallo with a second by Jim Pescatore, the commission unanimously approved the minutes of the March 4, 2009 regular meeting.

On a motion by Dan Lovallo with a second by Jim Pescatore, the commission unanimously approved the minutes of the special meeting held on Tuesday, March 10, 2009.

Correspondence

1. Letters to Ray Turri and MaryJane Gryniuk from Brett Simmons in regard to the signs at Fuessenich Park.
2. Letters to the owners of properties around the Machuga property from Brett Simmons in regards to the future burning of the buildings on the property.
3. Letter received from Mark McEachern of the Torrington Historical Society thanking Brett for informing him of the future burning of the Machuga property.
4. Letter to Mark Ginella from Brett Simmons in regards to the removal of signs from the fence at Jiggs Donahue Playground.
5. Letter received from Mary Cecchin of the Torrington Child Care Center in regards to our agreement with them. A copy of the agreement was also included.
6. A copy of the speech given by Mr. William Sulkazi at the hearing at the State Capitol in regard to the importation of reindeer for Christmas Village.
7. A copy of the letter sent by Rich and Jenny Grustas to Mr. Kushman of Oliver Wolcott Technical School in regards to their family's safety because of extended use of the technical school's field behind their house.

Citizen's Comments

None

A motion was made by Dan Lovallo and seconded by Jim Pescatore to change the order of the agenda and move Other Business to the spot before Facility Requests.

On a motion by Dan Lovallo with a second by Jim Pescatore, the commission unanimously approved the adding of the bid proposal for the Fuessenich Park concession stand to the agenda.

Commissioners reviewed the bid proposal submitted by Thomas Keslow and were able to ask appropriate questions of him as he was in attendance. Mr. Keslow was also able to receive clarification on concerns that he had. On a motion by Dan Lovallo with a second by Jim Pescatore, the commission voted unanimously to recommend to the City Council that Thomas Keslow be awarded the bid for the concession stand at Fuessenich Park.

Facility Requests

On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Dan Lovallo, the commission voted unanimously to approve the following pre-approved facility requests:

1. Torrington Police Department for Coe Memorial Park on May 12, 2009
2. AFSCME Council 4 for Coe Memorial Park on May 4, 2009
3. Conservation Commission for Coe Memorial Park on April 25, 2009
4. Torrington PAL for the tennis courts at Durand St. on May 23, 2009
5. Torrington PAL for the skate park on June 20, 2009
6. Torrington Police Department for Coe Memorial Park on April 21, 2009
7. American Red Cross for the Armory on May 5, 2009

On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Dan Lovallo, the commission voted unanimously to deny without prejudice, the request of WAKA for kickball games due to no field availability as per their request.

On a motion by Dan Lovallo with a second by Jim Pescatore, the commission voted unanimously to deny without prejudice, the request of Victory Sportsplex of Bantam.

On a motion by Dan Lovallo with a second by Jim Pescatore, the commission voted unanimously to deny without prejudice, the request of Honda of Watertown.

On a motion by Dan Lovallo with a second by Jim Pescatore, the commission voted unanimously to approve the request for Coe Memorial Park by Mothers Against Drunk Driving for various dates pending their payment of the maintenance fee.

On a motion by Dan Lovallo with a second by Jim Pescatore, the commission unanimously approved the request of Ana Marie Decker for Coe Memorial Park on June 27, pending the provision of insurance and payment of the maintenance fee.

On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Dan Lovallo, the commission voted unanimously to grant the request of St.Peter/St. Francis School for field use for baseball practice and games.

Program Update

Donna Winn passed out new brochures to commissioners. She reported on the Easter Egg Hunt and stated that some changes will be made for next year. She also stated that plans are being made for the Pet Expo. All summer concerts have been planned. A meeting of the managers for softball will be set up. Perhaps a member of the police department can speak about after-game activity at Toro at this meeting. A lengthy discussion occurred concerning the make-up of softball rosters in the "A" and "B" divisions. Any exceptions or allowances made to enhance "A" division teams are for this year only. This problem will be discussed for next year's play.

Coe Memorial Park Update

Pat Fairchild reported that Fran Ducotey has resigned as Chairman of the Coe Memorial Park Advisory Committee. On a motion by Dan Lovallo with a second by Jim Pescatore, the commission voted unanimously to accept Fran Ducotey's resignation and to have Pat Fairchild serve as chairman of this committee. She reported that Mayoral Assistant, Steve Nocera, presented an idea for a Veteran's Walk that was passed on to him. Coe Memorial Park is not a veteran's memorial park, so perhaps this idea could be utilized at the Veteran's Center within Fuessenich Park. The report made by Still River Gardens was distributed to commissioners.

Christmas Village Update

Superintendent Simmons said that there are still some outstanding pledges from the Toy Shower.

The Historical Society is beginning to work on its documentary of Christmas Village.

Old Business

Logo

On a motion by Dan Lovallo with a second by Jim Pescatore, the commission voted unanimously to approve the new logo.

New Business

Tennis Courts at Fuessenich Park

On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Dan Lovallo, the commission voted unanimously to keep the courts closed as there are many issues with the surface area that need to be addressed.

Horseshoe Pits-Location

Superintendent Simmons discussed the possibility of installing horseshoe pits at various sites in town. The area around the parking lot at Fuessenich Park, Bannon Street, and the area around Besse Pond are some possibilities.

Superintendents' Report

Capital Project Update

Superintendent Simmons passed out copies of the Capital project report and gave commissioners a detailed description of each project that is in the works or has been completed.

Facilities Update

Superintendent Simmons stated that a good part of his facilities report was given under the Capital Project update. Spring cleaning has begun at most of the parks as well as work on the fields. Many projects are being undertaken at this time.

Budget Update

Copies of the 2009-2010 budget were included in commissioners' packets. Brett went over the various reductions and changes made to the Parks and Recreation budgets.

Other Business

Brett talked about improvements he would like to make to the area around the Besse pool. He'd like to see a new kiosk and tables with benches and umbrellas installed in the pool area. On a motion by Dan Lovallo with a second by Jim Pescatore, the commission voted unanimously to approve the purchasing of this new equipment for Besse pool if there is money left over from the originally approved funds.

The commission also discussed the placement of many signs that had been made for the various organizations that use the Armory. It was suggested that they be placed somewhere inside the building.

Brett brought up the possibility of purchasing receptacles for dog waste. Commissioners advised Brett to purchase a few to be placed at Toro Field, Besse Pool, and Joe Ruwet Park.

On a motion by Dan Lovallo with a second by Jim Pescatore, the commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:10P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Fairchild, Chairperson