

Torrington Parks and Recreation Commission

Minutes of Special Meeting

October 20, 2010

Chairperson Patricia Fairchild called to order a special meeting of the Torrington Parks and Recreation at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, October 20, 2010, at the Armory. In attendance were Commissioners Duke Wall, Jim Pescatore, Dan Lovallo, and Superintendent Brett Simmons.

The purpose of the meeting was to review a draft of the new Field Use Policy and Fee Structure.

Superintendent Brett Simmons presented an overview of the draft. Some key factors that he highlighted were:

- Fees generated will go into a capital reserve account for improvements and upgrades to Park and Rec Athletic fields. No fees to be used for day to day operations.
- Capital projects and improvements continue to increase while the capital budget has not increased.
- Fees generated from this proposal will help offset our capital budget and allow further improvements for a better a recreation and athletic experience.
- The new policy will help to better regulate facilities, including overuse of fields, introduction of new organizations and teams, field use during inclement weather, misuse of equipment, field cancellations, etc.
- Two annual scheduling meetings will be organized as well as a new reservation/scheduling software program.
- Field use and fee policies have been researched using those of other municipalities in Connecticut.
- Policy and fee structure was developed in a tiered structure to recognize long-standing and/or resident user groups so as to not adversely impact these organizations.
- This is a draft policy and this meeting is scheduled to hear feedback prior to our moving forward.

Feedback/Comments/ concerns from those in attendance included:

- Fields used by THS are always ready for them to play. Why should there be a fee for THS players when all of their parents are taxpayers?
- User groups want the same lease as the Titans when it comes to Fuessenich Park.
- Perhaps all summer teams can do a fund raiser to raise funds for Fuessenich Park.
- Most in attendance questioned the availability of the money held by the Fuessenich Park Partnership. Commissioners stated that they have no control over that matter and referred all concerned individuals to the City Council.
- A suggestion was made to eliminate the stipends given each year instead of imposing new fees.
- How much would the proposed fee structure bring in each year? Superintendent Simmons stated that approximately \$20,000 could be generated in one year.

- The building of new fields in Thomaston and New Hartford was discussed. How come those towns can do this so easily?
- Some managers of teams pay out of their own pocket, so a fee increase would affect them.

Chairperson Fairchild stated that all concerns would be dealt with by the sub-committee and any changes would be submitted to the entire commission. This policy would then be discussed as an agenda item at a commission meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Fairchild

Chairperson

Recorder of the Day