

Torrington Parks and Recreation Commission
Minutes of August 4, 2010 Meeting

Parks and Recreation Commission Chairperson Patricia Fairchild called to order a regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission at 6:05 p.m. on Wednesday, August 4, 2010, at the Armory. In attendance were Secretary Dan Lovallo and Commissioner Jim Pescatore, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Brett Simmons, and Recreation Director Donna Winn.

On a motion by Jim Pescatore, with a second by Dan Lovallo, the Commission voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the July 7, 2010 meeting.

On a motion by Dan Lovallo, with a second by Jim Pescatore, the Commission voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the July 21, 2010 special meeting.

On a motion by Jim Pescatore, with a second by Dan Lovallo, the Commission voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the July 21, 2010 emergency meeting.

Correspondence

Correspondence was read as follows:

- Email from Mark Famiglietti to Mayor Ryan Bingham expressing his appreciation on the appearance of Coe Memorial Park.
- Letter from Bernice Gioia, Teen Center Supervisor, regarding a banquet she recently attended sponsored by the Police Athletic League.

Citizen's Comments

Bob Smith, "Silent Santa" for Christmas Village introduced Santa Bill and Santa Charlie, founding members of the Santa Claus Society of Connecticut; and described an effort underway to hold the first New England Santa Claus gathering of the University of Santa Clauses in Torrington from September 30 – October 2, 2010. If this event were to be held in Torrington, Mr. Smith requested that the group be given a tour of Christmas Village as well as a photo opportunity at the Village gates. As many as 35-40 Santas would be attending this training event. Mrs. Fairchild commented that she thought this was a good idea and great publicity for Christmas Village. A meeting will be held to discuss this in detail.

Facility Use

- Request from Rose Ponte and Tammy Ostroski for permission to kick-off a "Miles for Moe" 5K benefit walk/bike ride from Coe Memorial Park on September 25, 2010. Funds raised through this event would be given to Camp LARC. A motion to approve this request was made by Jim Pescatore, seconded by Dan Lovallo,

and approved unanimously. As this event is co-sponsored by the City, no rental or maintenance fees will be charged.

- Request from Tony Pietrafesa for a Citizen's Police Academy to be held at Coe Memorial Park on specified dates in September, October, and November 2010. It was noted that Officer Pietrafesa would be willing to work around dates which conflicted with other scheduled activities. A motion to approve this request was made by Dan Lovallo, seconded by Jim Pescatore, and approved unanimously.
- Request from Tony Pietrafesa for PAL Basketball in the Armory to run from November 2010 through March 2011. This request was approved unanimously upon a motion by Dan Lovallo, which was seconded by Jim Pescatore.
- Request from Erin Lombardi to rent Coe Memorial Park on September 18, 2010 for the Litchfield County Bridal Expo. A motion to approve this request was made by Dan Lovallo, seconded by Jim Pescatore, and approved unanimously. Full rental and maintenance fees will be charged.
- Request from Torrington Youth Soccer for use of Alvord and Bishop Donnelly fields for youth soccer from August 16 – November 21, 2010. A motion to approve this request was made by Dan Lovallo, seconded by Jim Pescatore, and approved unanimously.
- Request from Torrington Tornados for Toro I, Ruwet, and West Torrington fields for the fall season (end of August through October 2010). Following considerable discussion involving over time costs and the suggestion of making one of the fields into a skin infield, a motion to table this request until a special meeting is held was made by Jim Pescatore, seconded by Dan Lovallo, and approved unanimously.
- Request from the Susan B. Anthony Project to hold a Domestic Violence Awareness Candlelight Vigil at Coe Memorial Park on October 6, 2010. Discussion was held regarding changing the date to October 7 to alleviate a conflict with dog obedience training. A motion to approve the request pending resolution of the date issue was made by Dan Lovallo, seconded by Jim Pescatore, and approved unanimously. Maintenance fees will be charged.

Also discussed was a request from Susan B. Anthony for a discount toward a pool pass or two that could be used by the families in their program. Following discussion, a motion to allow Susan B. Anthony to have two family pool passes for the season that could be used at their discretion was made by Dan Lovallo, seconded by Jim Pescatore, and approved unanimously.

- Request from Tim Tharau, Torrington Fire Marshal, to hold a fire marshal class at Coe Memorial Park on October 14 and November 4. A motion to approve this

request was made by Dan Lovallo, seconded by Jim Pescatore, and approved unanimously.

- Request from Still River Gardens to hold a garden tour for the Harwinton Garden Club on August 12, 2010. A motion to approve this request was made by Jim Pescatore, seconded by Dan Lovallo, and approved unanimously.
- Request from R. J. Poniatoski for use of Fuessenich Park from early September through mid-October for Torrington American Legion games. A motion to table this request was made by Dan Lovallo, seconded by Jim Pescatore, and approved unanimously.
- Request from Joe Levesque of Grace Life Church for use of Coe Memorial Park on September 10, 2010 for a movie night as part of a youth outreach. Mr. Levesque stated that four churches are working together in this joint effort and that the movie license would be paid. A motion to approve this request, with maintenance fees due, was made by Jim Pescatore, seconded by Dan Lovallo, and approved unanimously.
- Request from Allan Odell for use of Toro I and Toro II on Sundays in the fall for a wood-bat league. A motion to table this request for more information was made by Jim Pescatore, seconded by Dan Lovallo, and approved unanimously.
- Request from Ann Marie Charest from the Friendly Hands Food Bank for concerts at Coe Memorial Park. A motion to table this request pending more information was made by Jim Pescatore, seconded by Dan Lovallo, and approved unanimously.
- Request from Babe Ruth for use of the Oak Avenue Babe Ruth field Saturdays and Sundays in September and October, 2010. Following discussion on fall league scheduling, a motion to table this request was made by Patty Fairchild, seconded by Dan Lovallo, and approved.
- Request from Murray Williams from CHD/Adult Mental Health for use of Coe Memorial Park for a chili cook-off on October 16, 2010. A suggestion was made that the requesting organization consult with TAHD to determine if any food preparer's licenses were required. Following discussion, a motion to table this request was made by Dan Lovallo, seconded by Jim Pescatore, and approved unanimously.

Program Updates

Recreation Director, Donna Winn updated the Commission on the following:

- The Movie Night scheduled for July 23 was postponed to August 7 due to rain.

- The summer concert series is going well, with good attendance and positive comments received on the Park.
- The Titans Non-Profit P&R night on July 17 went well, although the threat of severe weather kept the attendance low. Ms. Winn expressed her appreciation of the volunteers who helped at the event.
- The summer playground program is running smoothly, with few issues reported.
- The pool has seen some very busy days, thanks to the hot summer weather. Plans are being considered to hold a special day at the pool, with games and a DJ, for the campers in the summer playground program.
- The SkyHawks Track and Field sport camp will be held this week, with only five participants. Ms. Winn commented that perhaps this program could be done in-house next year.
- Leron Williams' Make the Plan Basketball Clinic is being held this week, with 22 participants.
- Dates are needed for the parade and opening of Christmas Village. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Village season would begin on December 5 with the opening parade. Hours of operation for the first week of the Village would be from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m. On Saturday, December 11, the Village would resume its normal operating hours of 1 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. daily, 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Discussion regarding the date for the toy shower will be held at a separate meeting at the end of August.
- The finals of the Northwest Idol competition will be held on August 14, 2010 at the Warner Theater.

Sports Updates

Brett Simmons reported on an email received from Ken Frizzo regarding the formation of a Women's Softball League Committee. Four people have expressed interest in serving on this Committee.

Capital Updates

Mr. Simmons reported that he is in the process of getting prices for some proposed capital projects. A capital subcommittee meeting will be scheduled shortly. The ventilation project for the Armory has gone out to bid. Dug-outs for Oak Avenue as well as other projects are being considered. Past fiscal year projects such as playscape installations are ongoing. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

Facility Operations

Mr. Simmons highlighted his list of ongoing projects and completed projects, noting that fertilizing, pruning, and mulching at various parks has been completed. In addition, new backstop padding was installed at Fuessenich Park and a new windscreen was installed at West Torrington. Current Armory projects include design/engineering of the installation of a ventilation system in the Gym and renovation of the front entrance steps. Entrance and rules/regulations signs are planned to be installed soon. Trimming of the bike path has been started. Also, work is being done on the volleyball courts at Bannon Street, including installation of new nets, with the hope of doing a pick-up program for adults.

Upcoming projects include landscaping at West Torrington and Toro fields at the end of the softball season, fertilizing of ball fields, and painting projects as time permits. The floors at the Armory will be resealed at the end of August.

Old Business

The Park and Field Use Policies draft now includes a Table of Contents, recently added, and a proposed fee schedule. This draft will be sent out to all users prior to a proposed meeting. Mr. Simmons is looking for official acceptance of the Policies in November, with an effective date in January. A motion was then made by Jim Pescatore that a special meeting be held on October 20, at 6 p.m. to discuss these draft Policies with all groups involved. Dan Lovallo seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

New Business

A meeting was recently held to discuss the idea of a basketball game at the Armory involving former Torrington High School basketball players who actually played their home games at the Armory. This would be a part of the Armory's 100th anniversary celebration. Tony Turina and Bob Martinotti, both former Torrington High School basketball players, along with Bill Nataro, are part of the planning group. Another planning meeting will be held next week. A press release will be prepared in an attempt to find former players so that they can be invited to this event.

A meeting was recently held with the family of former Park's employee Gus Lucia. Gus' family has requested that the Commission consider a planting at Christmas Village as a memorial to Gus. A proposal of the layout of the planting was put together by Gus' sisters, and the family would be donating some spruce trees as part of the memorial planting. In addition, one of the trees scheduled to be removed from Coe Memorial Park could also be part of the memorial. The area where the memorial would be located would need to be prepared for the planting. A motion to proceed with the preparation of the area for the memorial planting in honor of Gus Lucia was made by Dan Lovallo, seconded by Jim Pescatore, and approved unanimously.

Mr. Simmons reported that he had met with the board for the Vehicle Replacement Program regarding replacement of three Parks Department vehicles. Two of the three

vehicles were approved to go out to bid; one will be pushed off for reconsideration by the board in 6 months. Bid specs for an F150 ½ ton pick-up truck and an F250 ¾ ton pick-up truck will be prepared by the Purchasing Department. Once the bids have been received, they will be presented to the City Council for approval.

Other Business

Mr. Simmons announced that a street sign which would read “future home of Machuga Park” will be installed near the entrance of the property. The first four park entrance signs to be installed will be for Alvord Park, Toro, Oak, and the Besse Pool/Pond areas.

Letters and stipend applications were sent out to the organizations that have received stipends in the past.

A certificate was recently sent out to the winner of the slogan contest, Lisa Basso. Mr. Simmons presented a copy of the revised Parks and Recreation letterhead with the slogan used as the tag line.

Adjournment

On a motion by Dan Lovallo, with a second by Jim Pescatore, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Rategan
Parks Department Secretary