

**TORRINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 3, 2008**

Chairperson Patricia Fairchild called to order a regular meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, December 3, 2008 at the Armory. In attendance were Chairperson Fairchild, Vice Chair Ducotey, Secretary Lovallo, Commissioners Duke Wall and Jim Pescatore, Public Works Director Jerry Rollett, Superintendent Brett Simmons, and Recreation Director Donna Winn.

ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Commissioner Pescatore, seconded by Commissioner Lovallo, and all were in favor to approve last month's meeting minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

None

A motion was made by Commissioner Pescatore and seconded by Commissioner Wall to change the order of the agenda to address the Pierce Street project. All were in favor.

PIERCE STREET:

Pierce Street residents were present questioning the work that has been started at the Pierce Street site. Chairperson Fairchild informed the residents that the issue was being addressed by Brett and the City Engineering Department, and stated that she was very pleased with the efficiency of how the matter was being handled. Brett reported to all what has taken place thus far, and assured them that the problem is being looked into. Mike Godburn of Pierce Street asked if the residents will be informed as to what will be done. Chairperson Fairchild explained to Mr. Godburn that he is welcome to either stay in contact with Brett or continue attending the regular Park and Recreation Commission meetings for updates.

FACILITY REQUESTS:

The Girl Scouts requested the use of Coe Memorial Park for February 7, 2009, with a snow date of February 21, 2009. A motion was made by Commissioner Lovallo and seconded by Commissioner Ducotey to approve the request. All were in favor.

The Torrington Fire Department requested Coe Memorial Park for training on December 11, 2008. A motion was made by Commissioner Ducotey and seconded by Commissioner Lovallo to approve the request. All were in favor.

Mark Vinisko requested the use of the Armory for basketball games. A motion was made by Commissioner Pescatore and seconded by Commissioner Ducotey to table the request until more information is obtained. All were in favor.

PROGRAM UPDATES:

Recreation Director Donna Winn reported to the Commission on the progress of the Department's programs, and stated that all is going well. Donna reported that the Tree Lighting went very well, with a large crowd in attendance. Donna is now working on the Christmas Village season.

COE PARK UPDATE:

Commissioner Ducotey reported to the Commission that the Coe Memorial Park Advisory Committee has requested to contract with Zaharek Landscaping LLC to perform tree work at Coe Memorial Park. Superintendent Brett Simmons informed the Commission that this subject would be discussed during the Old Business segment of the meeting.

CHRISTMAS VILLAGE UPDATE:

Brett informed the Commission on the progress at the Village. Brett was able to obtain deer, and they were delivered with no problems. Brett said that the Village will be ready within the next couple of days. Wal-Mart will be at the various Park and Recreation's Christmas Village festivities to make a film honoring Mr. & Mrs. Sulkazi's volunteerism the Village.

TEEN CENTER:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Fran Ducotey reported that there has been a concern as to who will be doing the tree work at Coe Memorial Park. Fran stated that Mike Zaharek has done work before on the trees, and he and the Advisory Committee are very pleased with his past work and knowledge of the trees in the park. Fran said that they all would like to see Mike continue to be the person caring for the trees.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pescatore and seconded by Commissioner Lovallo to recommend to the City Council that Zaharek Landscaping continue to do the tree work at Coe Memorial Park. All were in favor.

LOGO CONTEST:

Brett reported to the Commission that only four entries were submitted for the logo contest. The Commission all agreed that we should extend the deadline, and look into other ways to get more people involved.

NEW BUSINESS:**TWISTERS LEASE**

The Commission went over the proposed lease for the Twisters, and noted all their areas of concern so that it could be presented to the City Council for consideration.

SUPERINDEPENDENT REPORT:

CAPITOL PROJECT UPDATE:

Brett presented the Commission with the updates on the capitol project work. Brett reported that the projects are going well, and there were a couple of unforeseen issues that will have to be addressed (i.e. swimming pool, Machuga) that were not on the original plans. Brett will be checking to see if monies from the Besse Trust can be used to fix the pool problem. Brett presented a capital plan for the ensuing year to address various improvement projects throughout the parks system. This plan included various categories (i.e., playgrounds) for annual updates to the parks throughout the City.

FACILITY UPDATES:

Brett updated the Commission on the progress of the repairs done at Christmas Village and the Machuga Property, and the work being done at Oak Avenue to correct the water problem.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Chairperson Fairchild stated that the Nutmeg Cart Association is still looking for a spot to open a club. The Commission all agreed that we recommend not proceeding with the request, because we have no area available to offer.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Commissioner Pescatore and second by Commissioner Ducotey, all were in favor to adjourn at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Daniel Lovallo, Secretary