

**Wallingford Parks and Recreation Commission**  
Meeting Minutes December 10, 2008

**Recreation Commission Members Present:**

Roz Gallagher, Dave Gelo, Linda Mercuri, Phylis Murray, Maynard Parker

**Recreation Department Staff Present:**

Director of Recreation John Gawlak

**Recording Secretary:** Joanne Vass

1. **Opening Remarks:** Linda Mercuri called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.
2. **Minutes:** Linda asked for a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes as is. Dave Gelo made the motion which was seconded by Phylis Murray.
3. **Old business:**

Linda attended the ceremony celebrating the beautification of Marcus Cooke Park. The Scouts did a beautiful job planting bulbs, mulching, and general clean-up and also purchased a bench for the area.

Linda's letter to the committee changing the Town's charter got a very positive response. They have offered to either attend one of the Recreation Commission meetings or invited the Commission to attend one of theirs. They were very appreciative of the letter.
4. **Director's Report: John Gawlak (refer to copy attached)**

**Additional comments:**

  - **Special Events:** John handed out a copy of the "Thank You" letter that Michelle is sending out to all those who worked at the Town's Christmas event on Saturday, December 6. He said that the event was very well attended (partially due to the weather). People enjoyed the many nice features, including a new ice sculptor, horse & carriage rides, petting zoo, and the Record-Journal's new Holiday Idol event, which John explained in detail.
  - **Annual Park Serve Day:** John mentioned the possibility of having multiple sites and getting more groups involved. Roz suggested contacting local youngsters who needed community service hours and gave Linda names of people who could help gather that information.
  - **Roller Sports Park Update:** Families and the Risk Management Dept. have attended all meetings. A new company (which may be a less costly alternative) from Maine will be meeting with the group on December 18 along with the Engineering Dept. The project will eventually still need to go out to bid.
  - **Gym expansion update:** John mentioned that Governor Rell currently has a "90 day window" of projects to stimulate the economy, for which the gym project may be eligible (Roller sports project may actually also be eligible). The Mayor and John Thompson will both attend a meeting with someone from the State to discuss any possibilities.
  - **Facility Request Rules/Regulations:** John suggested a special meeting or a sub committee to work on in January. A short discussion ensued regarding fee structure, insurance needs and verbage.
5. **Other Business:**
  - **Vet's Park: Little League improvements:** sod timing and drainage issues- some modifications made. It is finally all graded and the irrigation system is in. Fencing was put in and foul poles are going up. John will be meeting with Lars Edeen, Engineering and Public Works next week to get a complete update on the project.
  - John passed out a tentative copy of next year's budget. He reminded the Commission members to bring any requests to the January meeting. A short discussion of various line items ensued.
  - **Recycling bins:** A meeting was set up with Program Planning, Public Works, the Conservation Commission and Mary Heffernon recycling issues to be held December 11 at 3:00PM.
  - **Lyman Hall Memorial Eagle Scout Project (Elm St.):** John stated that the scout did a great job removing shrubs, cleaning up the walkway, painting the fence and flagpole. Dan Champagne (Record-Journal) will do a story when the project is complete. (Waiting for signage). Some type of acknowledgement will ensue.
  - **Fireworks:** Michelle is in contact with TELSTAR, the company we are currently using. There will be a 22% price increase to have the exact same show and we must now have a rain date or penalty. Discussion with the Mayor and Police Dept. may be required. It may also be required to go out to bid.
  - **Pragemann Park:** Roz suggested looking into a more elaborate playscape at Pragemann (similar to Moses Y Beach or Stevens School) for entertainment of the siblings of children using the fields. A discussion ensued regarding an application to the Rotary Foundation for possible help in funding. Roz also inquired about a handicapped swing. John said that he would revisit the project with Kathy Radziunas, our Therapeutic Specialist.

**Next Meeting:**

The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, January 7, at 5:30 p.m. at the Recreation Department, 6 Fairfield Blvd., Wallingford, CT.

**Motion to Adjourn:**

Linda M. asked for a motion to adjourn, which was made by Roz Gallagher and seconded by Phylis Murray.  
The meeting adjourned at 6:50p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Vass, recording secretary