

Wallingford Parks and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes February 4, 2009

Recreation Commission Members Present:

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

Recreation Department Staff Present:

Director of Recreation John Gawlak
Superintendent of Recreation Michelle Bjorkman

Recording Secretary: Jennifer Griswold

Opening Remarks:

Linda Mercuri called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

Minutes:

Linda asked for a motion to approve the December meeting's minutes as is. Dave Gelo made the motion which was seconded by Roz Gallagher. The January meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. It was rescheduled and cancelled again due to lack of a quorum.

Old Business:

Linda reminded everyone that on February 23, 2009 there is a meeting at the Town Hall concerning the Town Charter revision. She suggested that if the Commission has anything to present with regard to the current language in the Charter as it pertains to the Recreation Commission, they should plan on attending the meeting, which is at 7:00 p.m. in Room 315. Commission members agreed unanimously that they do not feel any changes to the Charter are necessary.

Director's Report: John Gawlak (refer to copy attached) Additional comments:

Fireworks – John said that the fireworks have been tentatively scheduled for July 3rd instead of the 4th in an effort to save overtime costs associated with the 4th, which is a Saturday. The final decision to hold the fireworks is still contingent upon budget approval. John will be sending a memo to the Mayor requesting to be put on the Town Council Agenda for the purpose of requesting a bid waiver for Telstar the company responsible for providing the show for the last 15+ years at the same terms as 2008.

Annual Park Serve Day: This will mark the second work service project by the Commission. It was agreed that the focus would be on Dutton Park beautification and that the work would be done in May prior to the Memorial Day Parade. Linda will send a letter to Henry McCully, Director of Public Works to inform him of her plans.

Correspondence was presented written by Kathy Radziunas CTRS, Adaptive Supervisor for the department on behalf of Bill Fallon, a long time volunteer for the TOPS Soccer Program. The letter was in response to the Recreation Commission considering Park & Recreation Department volunteer service recognition awards for members of the community who give back and make a difference.

Liquid Chariot Productions has requested to use the Pragemann Park parking area in the back and part of the woods along the river bank for shooting a film scene. John sent request to the Mayor's office, Law Department and Risk Management for comments. Apparently the production company has been shooting scenes at Sheehan High School since December. A meeting is being set up in the coming weeks to discuss needs and concerns.

John announced the ball field allocations to youth and adult league organizations of Wallingford will occur on the following days. Press releases have been sent out in January to alert other groups that may have interest in permitting fields.

February 10, 2009	Baseball, Softball	5:15pm	Parks & Recreation Dept.
February 11, 2009	Soccer, Lacrosse	5:15pm	Parks & Recreation Dept.
March 5, 2009	Baseball (large diamond)	5:15pm	Parks & Recreation Dept.

Open Space Users Meeting held annually at the Recreation Department March 11, 6:00pm

Other Business:

John stated that he had received the Mayor's letter concerning the budget for fiscal year 09-10, and that it is unlikely that there will be increases or major capital projects planned. There was a brief summary of the end of year statistics for 2008 as compiled by John Gawlak.

Next Meeting:

The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, March 4, 2009 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 Dave Gelo.
The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Griswold, recording secretary