

**Wallingford Parks and Recreation Commission**  
Meeting Minutes April 1, 2009

**Recreation Commission Members Present:**

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

**Recreation Department Staff Present:**

Director of Recreation John Gawlak, Supt. of Recreation Michelle Bjorkman

**Recording Secretary:** Joanne Vass

**Opening Remarks:**

Linda Mercuri called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m.

**Minutes:**

Linda asked for a motion to approve the February meeting's minutes as is. Dave Gelo made the motion which was seconded by Maynard Parker. The March meeting was scheduled for March 11, but was cancelled due to a conflict with the Open Space Users Meeting.

**Old Business:**

1. Facility Request Form: A Discussion ensued regarding various changes, with the Facility Request form, rules and disclaimers. Commissioner Dave Gelo worked with John Gawlak to make revisions to the current program.
2. Planters at Recreation Entrance: Commissioner Mercuri. Would like to see some planters out on the front patio of the entrance to the Doherty Building. This is in response to the removal of planters that DPW took away when they reconstructed the front patio from concrete to bituminous. Commissioner Gelo is inquiring with the owner of United Concrete about product design and possible donation.
3. Charter Revision: Linda and Dave attended the Charter Revision Meeting on February 23, 2009 at the Town Hall. The Charter Revision Committee suggested that the number of Recreation Commissioners be increased to seven. They would be appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Town Council. A discussion ensued regarding ordinance issues vs. charter issues. Linda will work on gathering information so that the Commission can work on making up its own by-laws. John will get the code (ordinance) book for reference. He also suggested calling fellow Recreation colleagues, and establishing a By-Law committee. Everyone agreed to bring their suggestions to the next meeting.
4. Spring Clean-up: The next Annual Park Serve Day has been scheduled for May 17, 2009 at Dutton & Harrison Parks. Michelle made up a flyer for the event. Linda will make up a list of things to be done and Dave is working on replacing plaques for WW I Vets that are missing at Harrison. Linda will check for additional information at the Library, Dave will check at Town Hall and Maynard will check with the VFW. Linda will also call Lorraine Devaney (Public Celebrations) for information. John stated the Harrison Park monies would be available to replace missing plaques. He will call Engineering regarding the drawings and Michelle will check with Barkers re: sign replacement costs. Removal vs. reviving fountain at Harrison was also discussed. Linda mentioned that it could possibly be used as an Eagle Project for prospective scout ventures.
5. Rotary Grant: Tom Collette from the Rotary Club faxed Linda a Grant Application to request project funding. She explained that there are two types of funding. A: Grants (forms due by May 1) and B: Special Funds. It was suggested to apply for funding of simple upgrades to various small playgrounds at parks throughout the town. John asked the recording secretary to contact John LaRue to look at playground areas for suggestions on improvements. Linda requested that the meeting with Mr. LaRue be held on a Tuesday so that all could attend. It was agreed to try and schedule a meeting at Community Lake on a Tuesday shortly after Easter.

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

Fireworks: Linda asked the Committee what their opinions were regarding the possible elimination of the fireworks for this July. The general consensus was that they were in agreement that the money would be better used for more important expenses. Linda will write a letter to that effect.

Viet Nam Vets: The topic of Vets park fencing was brought up. A short discussion ensued. John stated that the fencing work was almost complete.

Annual Park Serve Day: See above regarding spring clean-up. A letter to Henry McCully, Director of Public Works has been sent to inform him of the plans.

Pragemann Parking area proposal: John mentioned that because it is a change of use, and located inside an aquifer; a full application to the State of CT Dept. of Public Health would be necessary which historically takes a long time for a response from the state.

Open Space: Dave initiated a short discussion regarding ATV control. John mentioned the suggestion at the Open Space users meeting for various groups to “observe” users and pass information to law enforcement. John would pass the idea by the Mayor’s office.

**Next Meeting:**

The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. at the Recreation Department, 6 Fairfield Blvd., Wallingford, CT.

**Motion to Adjourn:**

Linda Mercuri asked for a motion to adjourn, which was made by Maynard Parker and seconded by Dave Gelo. The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Vass, recording secretary