

**Wallingford Parks & Recreation Department
Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes May 11, 2011**

Recreation Commission Members Present:

Mike Savenelli, Phylis Murray, Roz Gallagher, Dave Gelo

Recreation Department Staff Present:

John Gawlak CPRP Director Parks & Recreation,

Recording Secretary:

Joanne Vass

Opening Remarks:

Dave Gelo called the meeting to order @ 8:08a.m.

Minutes:

Mike Savenelli made a motion to accept the previous meeting's minutes. It was seconded by Phylis Murray.

Old Business:

Chairman Resignation: The Rec Commission members would like to acknowledge the resignation of Linda Mercuri as Chairperson. It was decided to purchase a bench in honor of her years of service on the Commission as what has been the practice with Charles Johnson and Maynard Parker. John will Email pricing and an estimated time of arrival of the bench. Acknowledgement will take place some time in August.

New Business:

Election of officers:

Roz Gallagher nominated Dave Gelo as chairman and Mike Savenelli as vice chairman. The nominations were seconded by Phylis Murray. The commission voted to accept both candidates for the appropriate positions.

Building Patio: Mike asked the Garden Club to offer some suggestions to spruce up the flower planters in the front of the David Doherty Building. Mike and Phylis offered to help paint the planters if paint could be purchased. John will look into funding for paint.

Director's Notes: .

1. Budget Meeting May 3: A few questions were asked regarding the pool, family day, and fields. The upcoming budget will have a 10% reduction over the current year with some moderate program price increases. Assistance is also available (funded through vending machine revenues) through a documented assessment process.
2. Dog Park: More requests for a park have been received. Recreation Department may tackle this project at some point. John suggested that the Commission walk a proposed 1-acre parcel of land at Community Lake at some time in the future. John mentioned the possibility of using other towns such as North Haven as an outline. Mike volunteered to call them for information. John will forward contact information to him.
3. Lufberry Park Disc Golf Course: The course is almost complete. John explained the concerns of the abutting neighbors of the park. He met with two councilmen and two of the neighbors. Modifications were made to accommodate concerns. Signs will also be posted notifying people when they are leaving public property. Any tournaments will be scheduled, monitored and restricted through the Park & Recreation Dept. with notification to the Wayne Road neighbors.

4. Pragemann Irrigation Project Update: Project is almost complete. A new flow meter will be needed to upgrade the service on Oak St. Total cost will be around \$24,000. Improvements will be funded through Pragemann Endowments.
5. Shade Trees at Doolittle: Councilman Farrell has requested that more shade trees be planted at Doolittle Playscape. Four 8' trees in the area have recently died. Michelle Bjorkman is working with a vendor through Public Works who gave suggestions and will put in job specs. Watering will be an issue.
6. Playscape at Doolittle: New swings have been installed. Damage to Turn a Cross is being looked into. We are in the process of calling the manufacturer to resolve the situation.
7. Community Gardens: New plots were recently opened up to accommodate the waiting list.
8. Tyler Mill Trails: Improvements to trails are being conducted by Diane Saunders and her volunteer group. They are formalizing their identity by wearing vests. They will be taking an inventory of species, acting as "guardians" with a social twist. There will be more organization, with scheduled meetings and gatherings. Will check with Risk management on subject.
9. Board of Ed. Facility Meeting May 9: The Board of Education has revised policies and increased fees. Due to field overuse issues and facility issues, they have developed a check list for users, pre and post walk-throughs and are now charging \$40 per hour for custodial fees. Recreation Dept. was praised for methods of handling issues. We will use check lists for coaches when using school gyms.
10. Jr. Women's Club Grant status: John would like to complete an application for financing the next 9 holes of the Disc Golf Course at Lufberry. Self funded thus far, this would be an opportunity to have the project completed in a timely matter without having to raise additional funds by the group.
11. Rebuilding of Pragemann Concession Stand GLLSB and WBA: The mayor has approved the project in theory. Intended structure will be 2 levels and elimination of old road is planned. John met with Town Depts to decide where the best place for the building will be. A 10 year plan for Pragemann will be developed. All users will be consulted.
12. Pragemann IPM (Soccer Field Maintenance): Plans needed for insect and broadleaf control. Because it is near a public water supply, alternative chemicals need to be used. IAM is needed for application to DPH for the proposed parking lot south of existing concession.
13. Bertini Low Ropes Course update: Pod clean up is not finished. Installer left for Alaska, but work needs to be complete upon his return. The Rotary and Recreation depts. have done some of the clearing. The YMCA was supposedly getting donations from Lowe's but we have had no response from the Y at this time. The Rec staff will be clearing Pods 2 and 3 shortly. The first training date is May 25. Some items need to be built beforehand. Additional signage will be ready this week.
14. Cartop River Access Trails: Federal funding has recently been eliminated. Monies from a Jr. Womens Grant may be helpful to this group as well if we wanted to direct our grant proposal to that effort.
15. Spring Programs: We are currently running at 80% capacity.
16. Month End General Fund: John passed out copies of the General Fund-Special Fund 209 report for April. He briefly discussed the four components- Internal, Program Report, Endowments and Scholarships.
17. Summer Brochure: The completed brochure is scheduled to be mailed on or about May 20. It is already available online.
20. Community Pool Vending Bid: No one placed a bid by the initial deadline. Last year's vendor is now interested if the bid is lowered. John is re-bidding the concession service.

Other Business:

Tennis Courts/Basketball Courts: John mentioned that all courts need to be checked for resurfacing.

Soccer Shed: Dave Gelo mentioned that the new shed should be coming in two weeks. Has Wallingford Little League pulled their permit and estimated time of arrival of their shed?

Soccer Parking: Mike Savenelli stated that the parking is worse than ever at soccer fields at Viet Nam Vets Park. People are parking on the bridge creating many safety concerns, especially in cases of emergency.

Next Meeting:

The next Recreation Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday June 8, 2011 @ 8:00AM at the Recreation Dept.

Adjournment:

Dave Gelo made a motion to adjourn the meeting.. Mike Savenelli seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35am.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Vass, recording secretary