

Wallingford Parks and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes May 14, 2009

Recreation Commission Members Present:

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

Recreation Department Staff Present:

Director of Recreation John Gawlak

Recording Secretary: Joanne Vass

Opening Remarks:

Linda Mercuri called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Minutes:

Linda asked for a motion to approve the April meeting's minutes as is. Dave Gelo made the motion which was seconded by Maynard Parker.

Old/Current Business:

1. Planters at Recreation Entrance: Linda thanked Dave Gelo, who was able to obtain a corporate donation from United Concrete to build planters outside the entrance of David Doherty Building. The donation was accepted by the Town Council as a consent agenda item at its May 12th meeting. Dave will oversee the project. A discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of painting the structures. John and Linda will compose a "Thank You" to United Concrete and the commission will have a plaque made with United Concrete's name on it and the year it was donated.
2. Spring Clean-up: Park Serve Day is scheduled for this Sunday, May 17, 2009 at Dutton & Harrison Parks, but rain has been forecasted. It was voted to do the event as planned unless rains become torrential. Linda sent a letter to the Boy Scouts. Jim Sayre sent a memo to Henry McCully asking Public Works to drop off mulch at Dutton Park. Michelle, Linda and Dave will pick up plants on Friday. John discussed issues with Public Works regarding incomplete painting of gym, pool issues, park clean-up at Doolittle and compost delivery. (It was decided on Friday to postpone the event until Tuesday).
3. Plaques for WW I Vets that are missing at Harrison have been ordered from Barker's Specialty. Linda checked at the Library and found original wording from the Morning Record. It was stated that Bob Beaumont has an original map of the trees. Although some trees are missing the map may be used to figure out where to place most plaques. A suggestion was made to make one more sign stating how much the Veterans are appreciated and that we as a group want to insure the maintenance of the plaques.
4. Charter Revision: Will be voted on in the fall. In the meantime, we can work on making our own by-laws (probably with sub-committee meetings). John will get drafts from other towns and adapt information for ourselves. Public Town Council meetings will be held May 21 (Workshop Format-no comments allowed) and Tuesday June 2 (A. Public Hearing & B. Discussion & possible action). We may express concerns about adding additional Commission members at that time.
5. **Director's Report: John Gawlak (refer to copy attached) Additional comments:**
Fireworks: John spoke to the Mayor yesterday. Fireworks will be held this year on Friday, July 3. A decision was needed yesterday if we were to continue to work with Telstar for the display. Telestar extended their agreement by a week to accommodate the Town Council budget adoption meeting.

Wood House Soccer: Dave Gelo requested permission to have NO DOGS & NO GOLF signs made up and put up on Wood House Soccer Fields. John authorized use of signs. Dave stated that the Soccer League will pay for the signs. Signs to read "Per Order of Parks & Rec Dept. and Commission".

John stated that he is trying to schedule a meeting with Henry McCully and Lars Edeen regarding Vets Park and to establish what is left on the punch list to complete the project.

Quinnipiac River Watershed: Mary Mushinsky will be attempting this summer to complete the natural buffer restoration project on Wharton Brook at Doolittle Park. The stream is vulnerable to overheating, oxygen depletion and runoff pollution.

Vendors: This spring there has been an unusual amount of food vendors requesting to vend in the parks. Commission members voted to keep vending to ice cream only at parks for trash, traffic and safety reasons.

Eagle Scout Project: Dedication will be on Saturday, May 23. Linda and Dave will attend at 1:00PM. The Recreation Dept. purchased the bench; the grass is growing, very nice job!

New Business:

Yalesville Little League: Their Board of Directors wants to purchase an AED. Ray Gomes will put request in writing- will need meeting with Risk Manager & Mayor due to liability. Other issues: need to change pads when they expire, battery checks, updates, training costs, purchase of first-responder kit, vandalism, etc. Price: \$1,000-\$1,800.

Photography Issues: Have been offering photos for Weber/Gannon Leagues for the past 3 years. Issues this year with local vendor used. Pictures still not all delivered. (Leagues ended in April). We will not be offering photos next year.

Kathy Radziunas, our Therapeutic Recreation Specialist is leaving to work for the Wallingford Board of Education. ASRC Group may have some input regarding future adaptive trends. Her position is being reviewed at this time. She will be missed. She has made an impact on inclusion services!

Agenda Postings: John shared with the Commission the new information to be included with any agenda postings.

Next Meeting:

The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, June 3, 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 Dave Gelo and seconded by Phylis Murray. The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Vass, recording secretary