

Wallingford Parks and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes June 3, 2009

Recreation Commission Members Present:

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

Recreation Department Staff Present:

Superintendent of Recreation Michelle Bjorkman

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 May's meeting's minutes as is. Dave Gelo made the motion which was seconded by Maynard Parker.

Old/Current Business:

Michelle & Linda introduced Mr. Dan Balch who was invited by the director, John Gawlak to seek permission from the Commission to serve food at Woodhouse soccer fields which currently has no vending available for residents. Mr Balch passed out his request to commission members. He has completed a serve-safe course for hot foods. The Commission explained that if permitted, he must follow proper channels (Health Dept permission, certificate of insurance, etc.) and there would be some exempt dates. Linda stated that the Commission will discuss, make a decision and get back to him Thursday or Friday. After his presentation a discussion ensued. Michelle explained the bid process, should it be necessary if we get an influx of vending interests in a particular area. She will call the Law Dept. and also discuss with John Gawlak. It was voted by the Commission to permit Mr. Balch's vending at Woodhouse providing he follows proper procedures and Mr. Gawlak lends his approval if he decides not to put out a food vending bid. Roz Gallagher also brought up the possibility of doing background checks on vendors.

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

1. Summer Registration: Michelle stated that we are expanding the Summer Sizzlers program because we have over 30 children on the wait list. By adding 2 more staff members, they will be able to take 20 additional participants.
2. Pragemann Parking Proposal: John Thompson notified us that the application (full) has been sent to the Department of Public Health, State of CT.
3. Missing plaques ordered from Barkers Specialty for WW I Vets are finished. Dave Gelo did a great job refinishing the old plaques, so all are ready to be mounted. He will set up a meeting with Bob Beaumont who has an original map of the trees. Michelle read the new appreciation plaque to the Commission.
4. Viet Nam Vets: Monday June 8, the Little League project should be completed. Public Works did not have player benches to complete the project. Benches will be put in from the Recreation Dept. Dave Gelo brought up 2 concerns: 1. Parking will be a major problem when Little League starts up again. Need to extend upper parking lot for 50-80 spots near Garden Road. 2. Need to install a turnaround at end. People are backing out creating safety issues for small children in area. The Commission voted to start with Engineering to survey. Linda will call John Thompson tomorrow.
5. Eagle Scout Project: Linda & Dave attended the dedication of the Lyman Hall Memorial and presented Chris Farrell with a gift certificate to Dairy Queen for all his hard work. The Mayor and representatives from both the Historical Society and Daughters of the American Revolution were present.
6. Planter Project update: Dave stated that the planters are ready to be delivered. Linda will do the actual planting.
7. Softball Ejection: Michelle stated that the individual ejected did come in to apologize, but must reapply next year in order to be allowed back (see letter).
8. Playground Proposal: Roz mentioned the idea to the Rotary Committee. They asked about our capital budget. She stated that specific information would be needed in order to request grant money. Dave and Linda will create a proposal for 2 or 3 added playground pieces meeting ADA standards. It will be ready by the next meeting.

9. Facility Use Forms: Michelle explained how the Law Dept. changed language re: use of town property (permit requirements, etc. to eliminate gray areas-pg. 3 of our forms.) She asked commission members to read, make changes and give input for next meeting.
10. Car to boat ramps: Meeting with Roman Mrozinski has been postponed until tomorrow.
11. Commission By-Laws: We have received a few copies from different surrounding towns to review and incorporate for our own by-laws. A few more towns will be sending theirs along as well.
12. Kathy Radziunas, our Therapeutic Recreation Specialist left for her new position at the Wallingford Board of Education. ASRC Group met with John & Michelle as consultants for Adaptive future trends. It was deemed that mentors are an essential element. Moses Y Beach is the inclusion sight for this summer. Lois Rosenwald and Julie Hipp will compile information and the Therapeutic Rec Specialist position will probably be revamped in the fall.

New Business:

Michelle gave a pool update: Public Works is working on painting and filling the pool for the opening weekend of June 20/21. The past few years we have opened the weekend before the official season by popular request. Josh LeMay will be the new Pool Supervisor for this year.

Port-o-pot issues: Dave Gelo asked if the portable toilets at Woodhouse could be cleaned more frequently due to the volume of usage at those fields.

Recycling: Dave met with Don Roe, Henry, Mary Heffernon, and Erin O'Hare re: recycling. Dave brought up various issues regarding actual implementation of recycling laws. A short discussion ensued.

Next Meeting:

The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, July 1, 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 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Vass, recording secretary