

**Wallingford Parks & Recreation Department  
Parks & Recreation Commission  
Meeting Minutes August 10, 2011**

**Recreation Commission Members Present:**

Dave Gelo, Mike Savenelli, Roz Gallagher

**Recreation Department Staff Present:**

John Gawlak CPRP Director Parks & Recreation,

**Recording Secretary:**

Jennifer Griswold

**Opening Remarks:**

Dave Gelo called the meeting to order @ 8:14 AM.

**Minutes:**

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

**Old Business:**

Dave Gelo announced that there will be a meeting of the Wallingford Ordinance Committee on Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 06:30 PM at Town Hall; rescheduled from the meeting originally set for June 21.

Grievance filed by Local 1183: The grievance is now at Step 3 and a meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2011 for further discussion.

The new park bench commemorating Linda Mercuri's years of service is complete and ready for installation at Doolittle Park; the engraved bench slats were on hand for viewing. Dave Gelo recommended that plans be made for a recognition ceremony.

**New Business:**

1. John raised the subject of the current Recreation Facility Policies and gave a brief review of the fee structure for rental of facilities. John is requesting an review of the fee structure by the Commission.
2. John stated that he has met with the various Departments involved with the issue of parking at Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Park. The correct fertilization program has been put into place, the Integrated Pest Management plan is complete, and so the project is now on track and can progress forward. Now that this is moving forward, plans for Pragemann Park Irrigation Project may be addressed. John said he will be inviting any of the interested leagues who may wish to become involved. Perhaps they will be interested in doing some fund raising to assist in financing the project.
3. Mike Savinelli told the group that he has been researching what is involved with starting a Foundation; it is rather extensive and he suggested that they make an appointment to meet with the Mayor to discuss it further. John said he would arrange for the meeting. Perhaps at a later date they would include the Town Attorney as well as the Comptroller to discuss details.

Roz Gallagher asked about the appointment of a new Recreation Commissioner; John said he has not heard, but he would also address that question when he speaks with the Mayor. The re-appointment of both Commissioners Gelo and Savinelli are also due and John will ask about that as well.

4. The recent water damage to the facility at 6 Fairfield Boulevard was discussed. The damage, a result of error on the part of the contractors replacing the roof, was quite extensive and posed a significant inconvenience for everyone involved. Despite this, the work progressed smoothly and the company hired to make the repairs, Clean Sweep, did an outstanding job. They were efficient and professional throughout the process, John said. They were able to complete the job in a very timely manner to allow for Project

Graduation, A Summer Arts Program, and a host of other Recreation programs that bring hundreds of people through the building each day.

Dave Gelo asked about where things stood with the Wooding-Caplan property and any plans for the Police Department building. John responded that he had not heard anything recently; but that economics and the needs of the Police Department would have to be identified first would certainly be a factor in any plans to move forward. Dave is going to contact Mary Mushinsky to inquire about any available funds for clean-up and creation of additional parking in the area.

**Director's Notes:**

John offered the following overview of recent Department activity:

Summer programs are coming to a close this week; the pool will be closing on August 21<sup>st</sup>. The pool is peeling badly and also developed a leak which resulted in a loss of 500k gallons of water. There was no concessionaire at the pool this year, because there were no bidders. John suggested offering the use of the concessions stand to community groups on a weekly basis next year, to give them a fund raising opportunity.

An educational / motivational speaker, Steve Maguire, was brought in by the Department as part of the summer staff orientation this year. His presentation was received very well, and made such an impression that he has already been retained for next year as well

Regarding recent Register news article and Roz Gallagher's concern about OSHA fines in Seymour, John informed everyone that the Town of Wallingford's Risk Manager had also notified him and that the department already had their own policy in place.

John shared 2 pieces of correspondence received recently; the first from the Wallingford Symphony Orchestra, thanking the Department for continued support, and the second from the mother of a child enrolled in the Playgrounds program, extolling the merits of the program, and commending the excellence of the staff.

Lufberry Park Disc Golf Course tee signs are complete. John is continuing work with Jason Michael to secure funding through the Junior Women's Club Grant. Award announcements are at the end of the month.

**Next Meeting:**

The next Recreation Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday September 14, 2011 @ 8:00AM at the Recreation Dept.

**Adjournment:**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Griswold, recording secretary