

**Wallingford Parks and Recreation Commission**  
Meeting Minutes September 2, 2009

**Recreation Commission Members Present:**

Dave Gelo, Linda Mercuri, Phylis Murray

**Recreation Department Staff Present:**

Director of Recreation John Gawlak

**Recording Secretary:** Joanne Vass

**Attending Guests:** Chet Kanios, Robert Boudreau

**Opening Remarks:**

Linda Mercuri called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

**Minutes:**

No minutes taken in August, no quorum.

**Old/Current Business:**

Linda introduced Mr. Robert Boudreau, who is interested in becoming a Rec Commission member. He has an appointment with Mayor Dickinson tomorrow regarding the open position on the Committee. Linda explained how and when the Commission Meetings are run and invited Mr. Boudreau to stay for the entire meeting.

John introduced Mr. Chet Kanios, who vends at West Side Field for Jr. Football. Mr Kanios is interested in vending food at parks in town. He is interested in serving a more healthy venue as opposed to the traditional fast food items. The Commission mentioned that the subject had been brought up at the June meeting when Mr. Dan Balch was seeking permission to serve food at Woodhouse soccer fields. Dave Gelo mentioned that there are some dates and areas that would be unavailable for public vending due to league events that have concessions. Mr. Kanios thanked the Commission for hearing his presentation, then left. A discussion ensued, with the Commission unanimously deciding to go out to public bid. The bids should include specific information regarding responsibility of vendors for trash removal, recycling, etc. John will construct the format later this fall hoping to open up bidding in early 2010 with the intention of running the permits from mid-April to Halloween.

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

1. Irrigation systems at parks: Dave Gelo mentioned that the irrigation system was not turned on at the soccer fields until last week. Consequently, due to hot days and unpermitted use of the fields by a group of adult men, much of the grass is dead and will now be very costly to repair. Linda commented that an irrigation system is also needed at Dutton Park. The Commission as a whole would like to know why the water was not turned on earlier to avoid the unnecessary expense to redo the fields. Also discussed was the necessity of a turn around at Vets Park for safety reasons. Little League use will create even more traffic, more backing up, and more cause for concern.
2. Resignation of Commissioner Maynard Parker: The Commission will be making plans to recognize Maynard's years of service at the November meeting with a farewell gathering. Linda will handle the invitations.
3. Pragemann Parking Project: The Engineering Dept. requested demand use schedule for the Dept. of Public Health application. John submitted a Spring and Fall schedule on August 24. He enclosed a summary of demand/use. Hopefully we will receive an approval of the project by this coming winter.
4. Job description - former Therapeutic Rec. Position: Because advertising in the local newspaper is cost prohibitive (the Hartford Courant quoted us a price of \$1,000), the department hopes to fill the position through other channels, such as CRPA, ASRC, and other associations.
5. Denis Ouimette request for youth soccer league recognition: John explained the background regarding the request and a short discussion ensued. It was decided that the request was not valid.
6. Bow hunting at Tyler Mill Open Space: John made additional comments regarding the deer population and the requests made to bow hunt at Tyler Mill. The mayor has requested that the herd be assessed. The Conservation Commission walked the open space last week. They will do a report on different locations with the assistance of a CT DEP Deer Biologist, Howard Kilpatrick.

**New Business:**

John discussed a letter he received from Todd Kennedy regarding an adult Football Club (The Ravens, a member of the New England Football League) in regards to use of our fields this fall. He was told by Jim Sayre that we have already had our fall field use meetings back in June and all field allocations have already been made. It was suggested by Jim to call Sheehan for possible use of their fields.

Office Camera/Film: John informed the Commission that the current camera used by our office will no longer be able to obtain film. We are now working with our IT consultant on installing some type of digital photo program to suit our needs for photo ID's.

Recycling: Dave mentioned that the Soccer League after the TWIST tournament had filled a 20 yard dumpster full of recycling. Because it was slightly contaminated, the dumpster was refused at the recycling center.

Flooring: Lil' Rec'ers flooring areas will be replaced this year because the costs were allowed by the Mayor back in this year's budget. John also went into great length to explain the condition of the gym floor and his frustration in working with the original supplier and local installer regarding sealers, paint issues and inability of getting an extension on warrantee.

John also mentioned that the area near the cement benches at Dutton Park needs attention.

**Next Meeting:**

The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, October 7, 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 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Vass, recording secretary