

**Wallingford Parks & Recreation Department
Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes February 15, 2013**

Recreation Commission Members Present:

Dave Gelo, Mike Savenelli, Roz Gallagher, Jason Michael

Recreation Department Staff Present:

John Gawlak CPRP Director Parks & Recreation

Recording Secretary:

Jennifer Griswold

Opening Remarks:

Dave Gelo called the meeting to order @ 8:06 AM.

Minutes:

Dave asked for a motion to accept the January meeting minutes. Mike Savenelli made the motion, which was seconded by Jason Michael.

Old Business:

Wallace Park: John said that project plans for the Legacy Garden that will allow for irrigation and benches has been put in the budget, and will be approximately \$12,000. This should be an agenda item for the March 12, 2013 Town Council meeting.

Dave Gelo raised the issue of signage and commented that there is no park identifier from the west approach to the park, where the existing archway is. John suggested that they solicit conceptual drawings for potential signage. Arrangements will be made to meet at the park with sign designers to discuss possibilities.

Vets Park: Dave Gelo commented on the appearance of the Community Garden, and suggested that it be cleared and plowed annually to improve the overall appearance. John explained that the gardens used to be plowed and harrowed, but that the practice was stopped due to runoff issues. John agreed that there is a need for more uniformity, such as acceptable fencing; there is also the possibility of eventually relocating the Community Garden. Mike Savinelli suggested planting something around the perimeter as a means of camouflage and to improve the overall aesthetics. John explained that he is meeting with Jim Sayre, Facility Manager, and Leila Edgar Macey, the Community Gardens liaison, to discuss new rules and restrictions for the upcoming garden season. No Community Garden parking on Fridays after 4:00 p.m. may also be one of the restrictions to assist in the traffic flow problem. Whether or not additional parking would even be approved at the site is still under question; John is working with the Engineering Department on that possibility. Parking lot improvements are being included in the Engineering Department's budget, with hopes that it may eventually become a reality. The paperwork is currently at the State level. Careful scheduling of field use and a police officer on traffic duty on Fridays, paid for by the Youth Leagues, will also help the situation.

Dog Park: Jason Michael said that he has heard from several residents and there is growing support for the Garden Road site for the dog park. Discussion followed concerning Garden Road, Galko Park on Cheshire Road and Community Lake as possible sites for the dog park. The overall consensus seems to indicate Garden Road as the preferred location. Community Lake seems the least desirable for a variety of reasons; overuse, crowding and noise among them – as expressed by concerned residents. After further discussion, **Mike Savinelli made a motion that the Recreation Commission should remove Community Lake from the list of options for the dog park. Dave Gelo seconded the motion. All approved.**

High School Concession Stands: John said WGS� eventually being displaced from Gaylord is the current focus. Both middle schools each have diamonds that are under utilized that need improving for baseball and that can accommodate the need without having to find new fields elsewhere. Due to these issues consequently there was no discussion of concessions.

By-Law Question on Executive Sessions: John said that he had spoken to the Law Department, and that Executive Sessions cannot be held without prior written request to the Law Department for special permission.

Smoking signage at ball fields: The signs are currently in production and should be ready for delivery by the end of the month.

New Business:

Director's Notes: (See attached submittal)

Next Meeting:

The next Recreation Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday March 13, 2013 @ 8:00AM at the Recreation Dept. Dave will E-mail all commissioners as a reminder of next meeting date. He will also Fax or E-mail copy of agenda to Town Clerk's office and Commission Secretary directly.

Adjournment:

Dave Gelo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Griswold, recording secretary