

Wallingford Parks and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes November 6, 2008

Recreation Commission Members Present:

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

Recreation Department Staff Present:

Director of Recreation John Gawlak, Michelle Bjorkman, Supt. Of Recreation

Recording Secretary: Joanne Vass

1. **Opening Remarks:** Linda Mercuri called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.
2. **Minutes:** Linda asked for a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes as is. Maynard Parker made the motion which was seconded by Phylis Murray.
3. **Old business:**

Linda passed out a copy of the Recreation Dept. page of the current Town Charter. She will send a letter (as previously discussed) to the Charter Commission Chair inviting Mr. Knickerbocker to come to a Commission Meeting and informing him that we would like to be involved in any changes affecting the Commission. A discussion regarding the letter's wording ensued. Linda will let the Commission members know what response she receives from the letter.
4. **Middle School Dance:** Roz Gallagher was approached by some friends of Middle School parents regarding the price of our dance passes and the inability for some to pay for multiple children. John explained the dance pass process and the reason for the initial discount at the beginning of the selling period. In reality, there was only a \$5 difference between this year and last year's price. The reason for the increase was the extra costs for hiring an additional policeman and security guards. He also explained the process of applying for scholarship funds, including initial review by Social Services for financial eligibility. Applicants must submit proof of income and the final decision is made by the Recreation Department.
5. **Director's Report: John Gawlak (refer to copy attached)**

Additional comments:

 - **Galko Pond:** The memo to the Electric Division, Risk Management, Inlands/Wetlands, Public Works and the Mayor's office was mailed on October 15. The Department requested that another light pole be set up so there will be one for the parking lot and one for the pond area. Portolets will be chained down and so will tables. New signage for the area should be all set after review by the Risk Manager. Public works is working on a barricade for the parking area and is eventually planning to plant trees as a natural barricade.
 - **Special Events:** Michelle stated that the Halloween event was very well attended. The upcoming turkey event (9 and a Chicken) is all set to go for next Friday, November 14. Prizes for the top ten participants will be candy baskets from the Perfect Treat. Also on that same evening, we are planning to run a Movie night for ages 6-11yrs. Seasons of Celebrations will be held on Saturday, December 6 starting at 2:00PM. This year, in addition to the Frosty Parade, visits with Santa, and Horse and Carriage rides, some new items will be going on. We have a new Ice Carver (Ice Matters), Petting Zoo, and New Haven Carolers (Alternative Starz Productions) will all be on hand. Our traditional make-it-take-it craft activity, tree lighting and reading of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" by Mayor Dickinson will also be on the agenda.
 - **Annual Park Serve Day:** Linda said that despite the inclement weather, volunteers were still able to plant bulbs on the trail and trim trees. John mentioned that the brush was cleaned by both main entrances to the Trail and the area around the monument was cleaned and made it now visible. Other bulbs were planted as well during the month by Michelle and Linda, including 100 at Dutton Park, more at the Gazebo, Harriet Wallace, & Doolittle. The Scouts also plan to plant more at Marcus Cooke Park. It was decided to plan the SPRING CLEANUP at the February meeting.
 - **Roller sports Park Update:** Discussion ensued re: Planning and Zoning meeting on Nov. 10 – Pragemann Park possible site is considered Aquifer area: State Health Dept. needs application to check out any changes/replacement. Garden Road may be cost prohibitive, but the Commission feels that the Pragemann proposed site should remain a "green space". John will hold a meeting the skate park commission and the Mayor. Dave and Linda would like to attend.
 - **Commission member Phylis Murray** had her commission renewed this past month.
 - **Gym expansion update:** John received the final drawings yesterday. He conducted a preliminary review of them today with Henry McCully. Henry is now reviewing the structural piece of the information and will do a final review with Purchasing in approximately 1.5 weeks. Then the Architect will be contacted and copies will be ready for review with the Mayor to determine financing. Dave Gelo offered to attend any meetings necessary. John will update information to the Commission.
 - **Dave Gelo** asked about the status of the Bertini Park Well. John contacted the Health Dept regarding annual cost to test well if it is activated- \$250. Health Dept. would have to agree with usage. Director of YMCA and John to meet re:

next year's usage of Park. Finally, John finally received information from Public Works after repeated attempts that were eventually inconclusive on whether or not the well needs to be reconstructed. Public works is still looking into, however, to activate the well as a public water source. Roger Dann commented in another discussion that a change of use application with the Dept. of Public Health would be necessary.

6. Other Business:

- Everyone on the Commission is happy to be receiving the Director's Notes before the meeting to review for discussion.
- Vet's Park: Lazer leveling is to be done this week, then sod put in next week. Fencing is to follow.
- John stated that he is sending out a letter for capital requests for next year's budget to all involved. He reminded the Commission members to bring any requests to the December 10 meeting.
- Recycling bins: Ken researched the cost of new portable recycling containers. They were too cost prohibitive at \$250 each. An alternative suggestion was to look into using regular cans and spraying them blue and printing "RECYCLING" in white on them and placing them next to regular trash cans. It was also noted that unless the recycling containers themselves are see through, people are apt to use them for regular trash, thus defeating the purpose. Another suggestion was to set up a meeting with Program Planning, Public Works, the Conservation Commission and Mary Heffernon to work on the issues, as recycling is mandatory.
- Linda made a motion to change the meeting time permanently to 5:30PM on the first Wednesday of every month starting in January.

Next Meeting:

The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, December 10, at 5:30 p.m. at the Recreation Department, 6 Fairfield Blvd., Wallingford, CT.

Motion to Adjourn:

Linda M. asked for a motion to adjourn, which was made by Dave G. and seconded by Maynard P.
The meeting adjourned at 7:45p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Vass, recording secretary