

NEW FAIRFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
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REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
Monday, April 11, 2016
7:00 p.m.
COMMUNITY ROOM AT 33 ROUTE 37

Members Present: Sean Loughran (Chairman), Steve Burfeind, Tom Edwards, Mike Ellenberg, Mark Lamanna, Jim Ogden, Gary Remley, Fred Testor, Chris Van Steen,

Members Absent: None

Town official present: Parks and Recreation Director Linda Lull

Guests: Eric Alviti, George Collino, Jeff Main, John Pendergast, Pedro Soto

Call to Order- Chairman Sean Loughran called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Public Comment- Jeff Main from Groovin' in New Fairfield spoke of the fact that the risers and the stage for concerts has been sold. It was noted that Groovin' in New Fairfield is able to use the risers as long as they are available but they are difficult to move. It was decided that Linda Lull will speak with Public Works if they can help with transporting them. The next shows at the Senior Center will be April 30th, September 24th and November 11th. Music at the beach will be contingent upon the ability to move equipment.

Approval of Minutes- Jim Ogden made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 14, 2016 regular meeting as presented. Gary Remley seconded the motion.

Vote: All in favor (Motion approved)

Turf Field

Eric Alviti and John Pendergast approached the commission about the possibility of building an additional turf field in New Fairfield. This field would be in memory of John Pendergast Jr. and would be solely a practice field. The proposed location would be the open space behind Rebel Turf scoreboard or to convert a portion of the existing grass field on Lower Rebel Field.

Mr. Alviti and his son, Noah (a high school junior) approached the Parks and Rec commission about a year ago and were told that no permits would be given until money was raised. To date, approximately \$90,000 has been raised towards the project.

There was a lengthy discussion among the commission and Mr. Alviti and Mr. Pendergast regarding the reasons for this proposal and whether or not a new turf field was necessary in town. The commission discussed the use of grass fields and the times when younger athletes sometimes practice when there are no fields available earlier in the day. Mr. Alviti noted that he has received over 485 signatures in support of this field. There was a discussion of additional expenses for this field in the future and it was noted that there will be a test fee of approximately \$1,500. There is a possibility that this field may be able to be rented out in order to generate revenue.

There was a brief discussion of the next steps regarding the process for approval and it was noted that this would need approval from other town boards as well as approval from the BOE Fields Fees subcommittee.

Gary Remley made a motion that the Parks and Rec Commission show their support for the proposed turf field (lower Rebel) and recognizes that there is a definite need for another field. Jim Ogden seconded the motion. **Vote: All in favor (Motion approved)**

Cashman Field and Memorial Field

George Collino spoke of the need to update and repair Cashman Field and Memorial Field that is used for Girls' Softball. These repairs would include striping and bringing new clay and it is hopeful that this can be done within a few weeks timeframe.

Fred Testor made a motion to spend up to \$9,999.00 to make improvements to Cashman Field and Memorial Field. Chris Van Steen seconded the motion.

Vote: All in favor (Motion approved)

Director's Report

Linda Lull noted that all the boat slips at the marina are taken for the season.

Boat Slip Waiting List

Parks and Rec Director Linda Lull spoke of a complaint she received regarding the policy for the boat slip waiting list at the marina. Currently, if a slip comes up, the next person on the waiting list is called and must call back within 24 hours or they will lose their spot. The complaint involved someone who was out of town and did not get the call in time. It was suggested asking for a preferred contact method when they sign up for the waiting list.

The Commission reviewed the current procedure and added the words "and declines" to read "If the first person does not call back or call back and declines; the director should note and leave them on the list for next year unless it is their second call".

Tom Edwards made a motion to approve the Boat Slip Waiting List Policy as amended. Mike Ellenberg seconded the motion. **Vote: All in favor (Motion approved)**

Flume stand at Beach

The commission got an estimate of \$4,500 to build a stand for the flume slide at the Town Beach. There was a discussion of what the platform should look like and it was suggested getting indoor/outdoor carpet on the platform instead of composite. It was decided that Mike Ellenberg will get another estimate for another vendor.

There was a discussion of advertising the Beach passes at Movie Nights over the summer and possibly setting up a table with someone selling passes.

Sand at Town Beach

Mark Lamanna made a motion to spend up to \$1,000.00 to add sand to the South Beach. Mike Ellenberg seconded the motion. **Vote: All in favor (Motion approved)**

Kayak Day

Kayak Day will be held Saturday, July 9th at the Town Beach. There was a discussion of building an additional kayak rack at the Town Beach.

Gary Remley made a motion to approve spending up to \$1,000.00 to build another Kayak Rack at the Town Beach. Jim Ogden seconded the motion.

Vote: All in favor (Motion approved)

Benches at the playground

Fred Testor spoke of a resident that would like to purchase a bench in memory of a loved one. He suggested have the Parks and Rec Commission purchase two concrete benches and a concrete picnic table with the possibility that a third bench may be donated by a resident.

Mike Ellenberg made a motion to spend up to \$2,500.00 to purchase two benches and a picnic table at the playground. Fred Testor seconded the motion.

Vote: All in favor (Motion approved)

Free Library- Book Exchange

Sean Loughran spoke of an email he received from Girl Scouts wanting to build a Book Exchange box near the Dog Park. There was a discussion of vandalism if it is not located in a supervised spot. The Commission spoke of other possible locations but noted that none of these locations fell under their purview.

Soccer club

Sean Loughran spoke of an idea that the Soccer Club has to build a playground on the Lower Multi-Purpose field. This would be a small basic playground primarily used for siblings during soccer games. This will be funded through the Soccer Club. There was a brief discussion of who would be responsible for maintenance. This will be presented at the next BOE subcommittee.

Playground

It was suggested that the railroad ties at the playground be replaced and it is hopeful that it will be done in the fall or next spring.

Shed at Boat Dock

Mike Ellenberg will get a price to replace the shed at the Boat Dock. It will be the same size and will reuse the cement slab.

Weed abatement

Mike Ellenberg will get a price for weed abatement at the marina.

Parks and Recreation Department

Linda Lull noted that her assistant, Kelly Ferris has left her position in the Parks and Recreation Department. The Commission thanked her for all her help. There was a brief discussion of the whether her replacement should be a full time or part time position and if the commission would have input on who is hired for the position. It was decided to post the position as part-time for now. There was a discussion of posting the position that part of their job description would be to attend Parks and Rec Commission activities and possibly earn comp time for time worked for activities.

Haunted Trail

Linda Lull asked the Commission members about working on the Haunted Trail in October.

Movie Van

Mike Ellenberg noted that the commission has received the van for movie rentals and it needs minor repairs. The final cost of the van was \$9,999.00. The repairs are expected to cost less than \$1,000 and since it was already approved to spend up to \$12,000 there is no need to vote on the payment of repairs.

Adjournment- Gary Remley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:36pm. Tom Edwards seconded the motion.

Vote: All in favor (Motion approved)