

NEW FAIRFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
4 Brush Hill Road
New Fairfield, Connecticut 06812
Telephone (203)312-5633 Fax (203)312-5636

REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 9, 2021
7:00 p.m.
COMMUNITY ROOM AT SENIOR CENTER

MINUTES

Members Present: Sean Loughran (Chairman), Tom Edwards, Mark Lamanna, Jim Odgen and Terra Volpe.

Members Absent: Steve Burfeind, Gary Remley and Chris Van Steen

Town official present: Director of Parks and Recreation Linda Lull

Guests: None

Call to Order- Chairman Sean Loughran called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Public Comment- None

Approval of Minutes

Jim Ogden made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2021 special meeting as presented. Tom Edwards seconded the motion- **Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Chairman's Comments

Sean Loughran noted that there are two vacancies for members on the commission. It was noted that someone has expressed interest in joining the commission and will follow up with the Selectmen's office.

Sean Loughran spoke of a request regarding asking boat users to park on the upper lot for the Town Beach in order to allow beach goers to use the lower lot. It was decided to table the discussion of this until the next meeting so that the First Selectman can attend and give feedback.

It was noted that the Selectmen are looking into putting flashing yellow lights to slow traffic by the beach.

Building and Grounds update

Sean Loughran noted that he sent an email to Lloyd Decker and Russ Loudon to request an update on the Boat Docks. Finance Director Ed Sbordone will provide the balance of the Boat Dock Fund to the commission in the near future.

Director update

Waterfront

Linda Lull received an email requesting that the beach grounds be open after hours for walking the beach without swimming. It was noted that this is not a possibility but the beach is available for use after hours by private groups if they are willing to pay for the necessary staff and provide proof of insurance. The Town Beach will close on Wednesday, August 25th unless lifeguards become available. It is hopeful that lifeguards will be available for the weekends of August 28th and Labor Day weekend (September 4-6). A total of six lifeguards are needed in order to have both beaches open. Four lifeguards are needed in order to open only one beach. All lifeguards must be lifeguard and waterfront certified.

Summer programs

The last day of Day Camp was Friday, July 30th. There was 110 campers per week. One week was cancelled due to a COVID case.

Linda Lull spoke of a request from Flag Football coaches for a change in their percentage of profit. The current split is 70/30 with the coaches receiving 70% of the profit. The request from the coaches is for them to receive 80% of the profits and give 20% to Parks and Rec. There was a brief discussion of this request.

Jim Ogden made a motion to change the percentage of the coaches split from 70/30 to 80/20 effective immediately. Tom Edwards seconded the motion. **Vote: 0-5-0 (Motion denied)**

Personnel

There was a discussion of a possible increase in salaries for the office staff in the Parks and Rec office. It was noted that these are both part-time positions with one at 30 hours per week and the other at 10 hours per week. These employees received the 2% increase received by Town employees effective July 1st but there was a discussion of an additional increase in order to be commensurate with the going rate. It was decided to get more information from Human Resources and to discuss this further at the next Parks and Rec meeting.

Linda Lull noted that Connecticut minimum wage increased to \$13 per hour effective August 1, 2021 and an increase must be given to waterfront employees making less than \$13 per hour.

Jim Ogden made a motion to increase the hourly rate of all waterfront employees \$1 per hour except for the directors and for it to be retroactive to August 1, 2021. Tom Edwards seconded the motion. **Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Upcoming Events

The Sip and Stroll originally scheduled for October will be postponed until May 2022. New Fairfield Day is scheduled for Saturday, September 18th with a rain date of Sunday, September 19th from 12 noon to 6pm. Events scheduled for New Fairfield Day include a band, animal show, marionette show and a beer garden tent. Linda Lull asked the commission to let her know their availability for volunteering at this event.

The Turkey Run will be held on Sunday, November 21st.

The Tree Lighting will be held on Saturday, November 27th.

The Trick and Treats Feast will be held on October 29th.

Gazebo at the Beach

The Lions Club would like to donate a gazebo for the Town Beach. It was decided that Mark Lamanna will get more information and this will be discussed at the next Parks and Rec meeting.

Public Comment- None

Future Agenda Items

The next meeting will be Monday, September 13th and will begin at 6:00 pm.

Adjournment- Jim Ogden made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 pm. Mark Lamanna seconded the motion- **All in favor**

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Kloos