

NEW FAIRFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
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SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2022
5:30 p.m.
NEW FAIRFIELD COMMUNITY ROOM
MINUTES

Members Present: Sean Loughran (Chairman), Ken Bennett, Steve Burfeind, Tom Edwards and Gary Remley

Members Absent: Mark Lamanna, Jim Ogden, Chris Van Steen and Terra Volpe.

Town official present: Director of Parks and Recreation Linda Lull

Guests: Dan Filmer and Eddie Kelly- New Fairfield Men's softball

Call to Order- Chairman Sean Loughran called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Public Comment

Men's softball- Eddie Kelly and Dan Filmer from New Fairfield Men's Softball spoke of field fees and the costs to run a team and noted that it was significantly higher than surrounding towns. There was a discussion of the breakdown of fees and how the Parks and Rec commission arrived at the original number. The commission discussed ways to work with the league to come up with a fair and equitable resolution. Ken Bennett will reach out to leagues in Danbury and Bethel to inquire about their fees.

Approval of Minutes

Tom Edwards made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2022 special meeting as presented. Gary Remley seconded the motion.

Vote: All in favor

Chairman's Comments

Sean Loughran noted that he and Steve Burfeind and Jim Ogden met with Judy Collentine, Kevin Hearty and Tom Pardalis from New Fairfield Girls' Softball about the possibility of installing a batting cage behind the fence at Memorial Field. This cage would most likely have turf installed. The price for the cage would be approximately \$10,000 to \$11,000.

Ken Bennett noted that New Fairfield Softball will be merging with New Fairfield Baseball. He gave a brief description of how this would work and spoke of Opening Day.

There was a brief discussion of installing a shed on Memorial Field for baseball and softball. It was noted that Public Works would have to approve the location.

Director update

Linda Lull spoke of the following:

The Pavilion has been dewatered. The Beach House will be dewatered next week.

High School Softball may be practicing at Memorial Field.

The Sip and Stroll will be held on Sat., May 21st from 4-8pm. Tickets will go on sale beginning April 8th. Volunteers are needed for this event.

Pavilion at the Town Beach

Drawings of the proposed pavilion for the Town Beach were shown. This would be a patio with a roof with no sides. The New Fairfield Lions Club will be providing the labor and it is estimated that the price of materials is approximately \$15,000. There was a suggestion of having the Parks and Rec Commission go to the Beach to look at the location.

Camp Prices

Linda Lull spoke of prices for Day Camp and noted that the price for a week was \$165 per camper last year. In 2021 the camp met for 32 hours per week instead of 35 hours that was done in previous years. Before and after care will no longer be offered. It was noted that instead of field trips, the campers went to the Town Beach every Friday. Since this was successful, it was decided to do that again this year. The commission spoke of the difficulty of finding lifeguards for the summer.

Gary Remley made a motion to raise the weekly cost for Summer Day Camp to \$180 per camper. Tom Edwards seconded the motion- **All in favor**

Disc Golf Course

Linda Lull noted that she spoke with First Selectman Pat Del Monaco about the disc golf course in town. They discussed hiring someone to do a study on the options for a course.

Executive Session

Sean Loughran made a motion to go into Executive Session at 6:32 pm to discuss Office Staff salaries. Steve Burfeind seconded the motion- **All in favor**

Gary Remley made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 6:50 pm. Tom Edwards seconded the motion- **All in favor**

Rebel Turf

Sean Loughran noted that he and Steve Burfeind serve on the Fields Fees Committee for the BOE. There was a meeting regarding the replacement of Rebel Turf and the track. Three vendors gave presentations for the cost of both the track and the turf. There was a discussion of the amount in the Field Fees fund and it was noted that the cost of installation has significantly increased.

Parks and Recreation meetings

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission will be on Monday, April 11th at 7pm.

Adjournment- Tom Edwards made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 pm. Gary Remley seconded the motion- **All in favor**

