

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
TOWN OF NEW FAIRFIELD
4 BRUSH HILL ROAD
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**MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, May 14, 2008**

**New Fairfield Town Hall Conference Room
7:00.m.**

PRESENT:

Ray Lubus, Chairman, Steve Burfeind, Bill O'Keeffe, Sean Loughran, Mark Lamanna, Melissa Fidanza, Lyn Sheaffer, Secretary.

GUEST: John Hodge, First Selectman

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairman Ray Lubus.

MOTION

Mr. Loughran motioned to adopt the agenda. Mr. Lamanna seconded the motion. Vote taken:

Sean Loughran	Yes
Melissa Fidanza	Yes
Mark Lamanna	Yes
Bill O'Keeffe	Yes

Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION

Mr. Loughran motioned to move the Dog Park discussion after public comment. Ms. Fidanza seconded the motion. Vote taken:

Sean Loughran	Yes
Melissa Fidanza	Yes
Mark Lamanna	Yes
Bill O'Keeffe	Yes

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Public Comment

Ms. Fidanza introduced Jen Ciorra and explained she was sitting in on the meeting because she is considering being involved in the commission.

Discussion of Dog Park in New Fairfield

Ms. Sue Barufe and her group approached the Commission. Ms. Barufe explained she was asking the Parks & Recreation Commission for support for her proposed dog park in New Fairfield. Ms. Barufe explained there are over 1,000 registered dogs in New Fairfield. She was hoping to use the area at 54 Gillotti Road behind the Town Park Playground. She proposed fencing off an area approximately 1 acre or 1 ½ acre. The area would be divided into to sections one for big dogs one for small dogs.

Mr. Lubus asked what the fencing costs would be. Ms. Barufe explained fencing would be approx \$10,000.

Mr. Lubus explained the relationship that 'Groovin in New Fairfield has with the Commission and suggested that might be the way to move forward on this project.

Steve Burfiend joined the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Mr. O'Keeffe had objections to the proposed site. The commission discussed location.

Mr. Lubus explained how to get the group together.

1. Get the organization together.
2. Become a recognized Parks & Recreation group.
3. Talk about site and approvals needed

Mr. Lubus explained to start fund raising they may be able to use the New Fairfield Foundation to hold their donations.

3. Remarks from Director of Parks & Recreation

Mr. Merullo not present.

Discussion of Concessionaire Fee's

Mr. Hodge explained there were 2 permits approved for Concessionaire's with a possible third permit pending.

He explained that the permit is good for use in the Town of New Fairfield; however, it does not authorize town property (schools & parks). Mr. Hodge explained the Commission needs to establish a policy to charge additional fees for town property. The Board pf Education will not allow anything during Board of Education programming. Mr. Hodge explained the Health Dept. signs off on the permit; the applicant is finger printed there is a background check and the First Selectman is the last signature for approval.

Gabriel & Marie Gouveia approached the Commission. Mr. Gouveia explained they had paid their \$75 fee and received their permit. He now expressed concern at an additional fee.

Mr. Lubus explained Mr. Hodge wants the Commission to establish a policy to sell on recreational fields. Mr. Lubus stated we make every athlete pay a usage fee, the town park is a bid process, and he felt if a private venture is going to use the field to sell a fee is not unreasonable.

Ms. Fidanza felt the commission should consider instituting the fee next year out of fairness.

Mr. O'Keeffe expressed concern about amount of vendors; he felt the number of permits should be controlled. Mr. Lubus felt if a policy was adopted with limits then the Commission would need to publish the policy with dates.

The Commission discussed whether to charge a nominal fee this year.

MOTION

Mr. Lamanna motioned to not charge a fee for this year. Mr.Loughran seconded the motion.

Mr. Hodge asked if we could require sales date be reported to P&R to have a basis to set a fee for next year. Mr. Lubus felt then you may not be comparing apples with apples. Some vendors may make \$25,000 some may make \$10,000.

Mr. Burfiend motioned to amend the motion stating effective 6/1/08-12/31/8 any new application will require a \$150 fee to sell on town property and not during Board of Education Events.

Mr. Lamanna & Mr. O’Keeffe agreed to the amendment. Vote taken:

Sean Loughran	Yes
Melissa Fianza	Yes
Mark Lamanna	Yes
Bill O’Keeffe	Yes
Steve Burfiend	Yes

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Report from the Parks & Recreation Commission Chairman

Mr. Lubus thanked the Commission members for all their support and all three Board of Selectmen with regard to the Bathroom/Concession stand project even though it was not successful.

Mr. Lubus explained he had a conversation with the First Selectman and asked if the Commission wanted to present a scaled down bathroom project with no press box, storage or concession stand.

The commission discussed.

5. Old Business

BATHROOM / CONCESSION STAND

Mr. Lubus asked the Commission where the bathroom/concession stand head.

Mr. O’Keeffe felt the concession stand and press box should not be removed.

The Commission discussed.

Mr. Hodge explained he thought a lot about the project and felt they could not ignore the numbers. He felt it was more important to get bathrooms up there. He felt maybe the Commission could go back to the Board of Finance and take up the offer to put in just bathrooms. He stated the Board of Finance unanimously voted for bathrooms and the Board of Selectmen approved it.

The Commission discussed.

Mr. Lubus stated he was not sure if he was willing to stand in front of the Board of Finance again. If the Commission was to support that idea someone else would have to go to the boards.

Mr. Burfiend felt there was no appetite for it.

6. Sub-committee reports

WATERFRONT

Mr. Lamanna reviewed the Waterfront Sub-Committee minutes from May 12, 2008. See Attached.

MOTION

Mr. Burfiend motioned to accept the recommendations of the Waterfront Sub-committee. Mr. Lamanna seconded the motion. Vote taken:

Sean Loughran	Yes
Melissa Fidanza	Yes
Mark Lamanna	Yes
Bill O’Keeffe	Yes
Steve Burfiend	Yes

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Loughran questioned if the Commission approved hiring a Waterfront Director. Mr. Lubus explained that they had one, Mr. Merullo eliminated the position, it didn’t work without one, and then Mr. Merullo reinstated the position.

The Commission discussed.

Vote taken:

Sean Loughran	No
Melissa Fidanza	Yes
Mark Lamanna	Yes
Bill O’Keeffe	Abs
Steve Burfiend	Yes

Motion carried 3-2.

Mr. O’Keeffe expressed disappointment that he was not called for the sub-committee meeting. Ms. Fidanza stated the next Waterfront Sub-committee meeting would be June 9, 2008.

FIELDS

Mr. Burfiend stated the field’s sub-committee would meet on June 2, 2008 to discuss getting input by the end of June. At that time he would need to give the groups the field usage fee.

Mr. Burfiend explained he heard today that there was a big lacrosse tournament this weekend and they would be using both fields, both days. Youth soccer was bumped. Mr. Burfiend asked if Lacrosse was paying for the field since 5-6 towns were coming to use the field. He asked if there would be a fee charged if NF Youth organizations were inviting organizations in. The Commission discussed.

Mr. Burfiend expressed concern about having premier soccer teams coming in to play a “friendly” game against NF team. He explained Mr. Merullo brought in 8 teams last year to play friendly games. He asked what a big event vs. a 1 time game was.

Mr. Lubus felt if it was within the organizations block of time and recognized as part of their time he didn’t have a problem with it if it was recognized within their program.

Mr. Burfiend felt Mr. Merullo took advantage last year and he was worried about the perception.

Mr. Buriend was questioned 2 things for the Lacrosse tournament t his weekend.

1. Did they file the proper paperwork with a special fee
2. If the space was committed was the P&R Director supposed to let the bumped teams know.

PROGRAMMING

No Report

LONG RANGE PLANNING

No Report

Parks & Recreation Director's report

Mr. Lubus read Mr. Merullo's report into the record. See attached.

7. New Business

PLAYSCAPE PLAYGROUND

The Commission discussed moving the playground back to Memorial Field. Mr. Lubus suggested putting it at the Community Park.

Mr. O'Keeffe felt the beach playground could be moved with some muscle.

Ms. Fidanza stated Mr. Merullo felt that was not possible so we should think of other areas. She felt if we put it at the Community Park it should be fenced in for the little children.

'MOTION

Ms. Fidanza motioned to assemble & install our end of year 2007 Playscape at the Community Park to the left of the swing set with the approved sub base by June 30, 2008. Mr. Lamanna seconded the motion.

Final estimates for installation would be approved at the June meeting.

Vote taken:

Sean Loughran	Yes
Melissa Fidanza	Yes
Mark Lamanna	Yes
Bill O'Keeffe	Yes
Steve Buriend	Yes

Motion carried unanimously.

DUGOUTS

Mr. Loughran thought there was money set aside for the dugouts. The commission discussed.

MOTION

Mr. O’Keeffe motioned to table the dugouts until the next meeting. Mr. Lamanna seconded the motion. Vote taken:

Sean Loughran	Yes
Melissa Fidanza	Yes
Mark Lamanna	Yes
Bill O’Keeffe	Yes
Steve Burfiend	Yes

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lubus explained next month the commission would take nominations for officer’s positions.

Mr. O’Keeffe explained his term expires 7/1/08 and he did not wish to be re-appointed.

Mr. Lamanna’s term is also coming up. he agreed to be reappointed. Mr. Lubus asked him to write a letter to the First Selectman right away.

8. Correspondence & Communications

None

Meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Lyn Sheaffer, Secretary Parks & Recreation Commission