

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

REGULAR MEETING

Minutes
Monday, June 8, 2009
7:00 p.m.

TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

PRESENT:

Sean Loughran (Chairman), Steve Burfeind, Fred Testor, Melissa Fidanza, Chris Van Steen, Mark Lamanna, Tom Edwards, Bill O’Keeffe, Steve Merullo (Parks & Recreation Director), Brian Stroh (Summer Day Camp Director), Denise Coccozza (Secretary), First Selectman John Hodge

1. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Sean Loughran. Motion was made to approve the agenda by Bill O’Keeffe. Fred Testor seconded the motion. Agenda was approved.

2. Public Comment

Joe Garufi was in attendance and suggested a tie-in with the Dog Park and dog-themed movies over the summer (i.e. Hotel for Dogs). Perhaps a collection basket could be circulated at the movies. The members agreed to discuss the concept further.

3. Approval of Minutes May 11th

Steve Burfeind made a motion to approve the May 11 minutes. Melissa Fidanza seconded the motion.

Vote taken:

Steve Burfeind	Yes
Fred Testor	Yes
Melissa Fidanza	Yes
Chris Van Steen	Yes
Mark Lamanna	Yes
Tom Edwards	Abstained (not present 5/11)
Bill O’Keeffe	Abstained (not present 5/11)

Motion Carried.

4. Chairman Comments

None

5. Vote: Dog Park Contract

Joe Garufi stated that there were new developments from the Community Foundation that would make changes to the original contract necessary. Fred Testor also noted that there were some concerns from the cross country team regarding the location of the dog park and its proximity to the cross country track. Mr. Garufi had concerns about the incremental costs if the location of the dog park were to move. There was discussion about liability if there were injuries related to dog bites, and it was determined that the dog owners are responsible as per state statute.

Fred Testor made a motion to table the dog park contract vote until the verbiage is revised to reflect the Community Foundation changes. Mark Lamanna seconded the motion.

Vote taken:

Steve Burfeind	Yes
Fred Testor	Yes
Melissa Fianza	Yes
Chris Van Steen	Yes
Mark Lamanna	Yes
Tom Edwards	Yes
Bill O’Keeffe	Yes

Motion Carried.

6. Director Update

a). Bathrooms at the high school – Steve Merullo and John Hodge reported that the Community Foundation indicated that there is a donor who will potentially provide up to \$100,000 toward the bathroom project. The architect who is working on the new senior center has provided some drawings for the bathrooms and recommended that the town forego the top portion with the press box unless financial commitment from the clubs comes through. The current objective is to have a structure that would have a 3 female and 3 male (2 urinals, 1 stall) setup. Steve Merullo stated that bids could go out in the next week and permits could be obtained within the next month. John Hodge advised that someone has to approach the clubs and ask for a formal commitment. Mark Lamanna made a motion to allocate the Parks & Recreation \$10,872 towards the bathroom project. Fred Testor seconded the motion.

Vote taken:

Steve Burfeind	Yes
Fred Testor	Yes
Melissa Fianza	Yes
Chris Van Steen	Yes
Mark Lamanna	Yes
Tom Edwards	Yes
Bill O’Keeffe	Yes

Motion Carried.

Mark Lamanna also made a motion to authorize Steve Merullo to go out to bid and handle all associated details (cost of \$200 – 250) to put the bid out. Bill O’Keeffe seconded the motion.

Vote taken:

Steve Burfeind	Yes
Fred Testor	Yes
Melissa Fidanza	Yes
Chris Van Steen	Yes
Mark Lamanna	Yes
Tom Edwards	Yes
Bill O’Keeffe	Yes

Motion Carried.

b). Playground construction is on track and almost complete. It should be ready by Monday 6/15 for the concrete to be poured.

7. Subcommittee Reports

a). Waterfront

- New camera approved at last meeting is in progress.
- As discussed at last month’s meeting, Steve Merullo moved one of the marina lights towards the beach in order to minimize the glare on some of the Candlewood Isle homes. Since the transfer there was one complaint and Steve will adjust the angle of the light in the next week.
- Jet skis – no update this month. Over the next several months Steve will investigate the possibility of adding jet ski slips next year.
- Concession stand at the Town Park – Steve Merullo reported that Parks & Recreation received a bid for \$700 to from a vendor interested in operating the concession stand.

b) Programming

- Summer brochure is printed and distributed
- Day camp – one extra week in August at Consolidated/St. Edward’s is being finalized. Counselors will need training for the St. Edward’s site.

c) Fields – Steve Burfeind stated that the lower Rebel field is now available for use. Steve Merullo spoke to the Board of Education and reported that the field will fall under the control of Parks & Recreation. The track field use fees came up and it was determined that prior to 7/1 a meeting with the Board of Education needs to be scheduled to address.

d) Day Camp update – Brian Stroh

- Summer schedule handed out
- Week 6 in August – safety issues addressed with crossing the street from Consolidated School to St. Edward’s. Portable stop signs/crossing guards to be set up.
- Day camp art director resigned. Brian is confident that the counselors will be able to pick up the slack in this area.

- Safety/supervision was discussed. Brian Stroh presented a solution to previous concerns. This summer, a system will be implemented with 2 major changes compared to last year:
 - New Walkie-talkies for all groups – better quality
 - Pick-up “password” to be used until the counselors are familiar with the parents picking up the children

Various other safety alternatives were discussed, including using a security guard at the camp entrance. However, it was noted that since there are other camps/groups using the building and other open entrances it would be difficult for a security guard to manage the situation. It was determined that the security issue would be addressed at the next monthly meeting on 7/13.

Meanwhile, the following will be explored:

- Bring in a risk manager over the summer to assess the safety situation
- Ask Kelly to contact other Parks & Recreation departments in the area to find out what procedures they use

e). Chris Van Steen suggested that at next month’s meeting the following topics be discussed:

- Turkey Run – Kelly should attend
- Boat storage across from Town Park

7. Adjournment

Bill O’Keeffe made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chris Van Steen seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m.