

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, March 9, 2009
7:00 p.m.

TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM

PRESENT:

Sean Loughran (Chairman), Steve Burfeind, Chris Van Steen, Fred Testor, William Tripp, Tom Edwards, Bill O’Keeffe, Melissa Fidanza, Mark Lamanna, First Selectman John Hodge, Steve Merullo (Parks & Recreation Director), Kelly Ferris (Program Director), Denise Cocozza (Secretary)

1. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Sean Loughran. Bill O’Keeffe made a motion to approve the agenda without changes. Bill Tripp seconded the motion.

Vote taken:

Steve Burfeind	Yes
Fred Testor	Yes
William Tripp	Yes
Melissa Fidanza	Yes
Bill O’Keeffe	Yes

Motion Carried Unanimously.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Minutes February 9th

Steve Burfeind made a motion to approve the February 9th minutes. Fred Testor seconded.

Vote taken:

Steve Burfeind	Yes
Fred Testor	Yes
William Tripp	Yes
Melissa Fidanza	Abstained – was not present on 2/9
Bill O’Keeffe	Abstained – was not present on 2/9

Motion Carried.

4. Chairman Comments

None

5. Director Update

Parks & Recreations Director Steve Merullo provided an update on the Rebel Turf bathrooms project. Revised estimates are coming in higher than the prior estimate that was in the \$110,000 range. Current estimates for a pre-fabricated structure are at \$132,000 which would bring the various clubs' contributions up to approximately \$22,000 (original club contributions were to be closer to \$15,000). Various scenarios were discussed, including completing the project in phases (i.e. stairs first; then add base/storage, add well/septic/electric/restrooms later in stages). Several of the members also suggested pursuing independent contractors as an option. Steve Merullo said he would put the project out to bid with several scenarios. It would take 1 month to get the bid out, and 2-3 weeks for responses. The responses would then be compared to the quotes for the pre-fabricated units. John Hodge pointed out that there are \$35,000 in fixed costs (stairs, base) regardless of which scenario is chosen. He also recommended that the Commission set up a meeting in the next couple of weeks with the other organizations involved to inform them of the project's status and scenarios. Steve Burfeind said he will send out an e-mail to the other organizations in order to set up a meeting before next month's Commission meeting.

6. Sub-committee reports

A) Fields – Steve Burfeind relayed the content of a letter from the Soccer Club which inquired about several items – the first being the status of the lower Rebel field. He responded that the Town and Board of Education will need to make that determination depending on the condition of the field. The letter also inquired about access to the stadium lights. The members discussed and it was determined that someone in each club has access to the lights. Also addressed was where the responsibility lays for the porta-potties. Steve Merullo stated that the playground porta-potties are the town's responsibility, as well as the one by the track. The porta-potties by the press box and baseball field are the responsibility of the Board of Education. Finally, the Soccer Club asked about trash removal at the various fields. Steve Merullo said the Board of Education is responsible for the trash at Rebel Turf, the stadium, back and lower multi-purpose fields. The town is responsible for Memorial and Komlo fields.

B) Waterfront – Mark Lamanna spoke with someone at Chatterton Marina regarding the gravel lot across from the Town Park and the potential for winter boat storage there. The feedback he received was that security/gate and cameras would need to be installed in order to make it a viable storage area. However, he didn't get the sense that there would be a great demand for using the space. Steve Merullo followed up from last month's meeting with some details on next steps. He said that based on the specifications previously discussed, 37 boats could fit in the lot. In order to proceed, a zoning change would need to be made first.

Steve Merullo reported on the condition/status of the docks. He said they are in need of replacement and half will be replaced this year, as budgeted, and the other half will be replaced next year.

C) Programming – Kelly Ferris report that the spring brochure is almost complete. There are some new hiking programs and a hip-hop dance class. Some programs lost this spring include the Legos & Mad Science programs due to high costs. John Hodge noted that the Parks & Recreation Department should reserve the right to decline any program in which the participation fees are deemed too high. Melissa Fidanza made a suggestion to pursue offering weekend swim lessons.

Steve Merullo said that after last month’s meeting, Tom Pardalis came back with an 80/20 counteroffer for the revenue splits. The members discussed and came to the consensus that based on the vote last month, for this year the 70/30 splits will remain in place for programs that are feeders for high school sports.

Mr. Merullo also informed the Commission that the Melendez Tennis Camp will no longer be offered in New Fairfield as the program’s overhead costs are too high to work with the new revenue structure. Mr. Melendez will be offering the program at Western Connecticut State University and has contacted the New Fairfield families who had previously participated in his program. Meanwhile, Mr. Merullo approached the high school tennis coach and it is likely that a summer tennis camp will come to fruition for this year. Once the details are worked out, Parks & Recreation will send the information to the past New Fairfield tennis camp participants.

A new development this spring is the capability for online registration due to the department changing over from the Rec Track to the Rec Desk system. The only two items that will not offer online registration & payment (through Paypal) are the summer day camp and boat dock fees. Bill O’Keeffe made a motion to proceed with the move to Rec Desk. Fred Testor seconded the motion.

Vote taken:

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

Motion Carried Unanimously.

There will be a 3% cost to the town for the Paypal capability. The members discussed whether to pass on that cost with a fee increase to participants, or for the town to cover the incremental cost. Bill Tripp made a motion for the town to cover the 3% Paypal cost for online payments, with the exception of the boat dock slip fees and summer day camp registration. Bill O’Keeffe seconded the motion.

Vote taken:

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

Motion Carried Unanimously.

7. Adjournment

Bill O’Keeffe made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bill Tripp seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.