

NEW FAIRFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
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SPECIAL MEETING

Minutes
Monday, March 15, 2010
7:30 p.m.
TOWN HALL

PRESENT:

Sean Loughran, Chris Van Steen, Bill O’Keeffe, Mark Lamanna, Melissa Fidanza, Steve Burfeind, Steve Merullo (Parks & Recreation Director), Denise Cocozza (Commission Secretary)

1. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:41 p.m. by Chairman Sean Loughran.

Bill O’Keeffe made a motion to accept the agenda. Steve Burfeind seconded the motion.
Vote: 5-0-0. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Public Comment: None

3. Approval of Minutes

The members agreed to table the approval of the 2/8/10 minutes until the end of the meeting.

4. Chairman Comments

- a. Chairman Sean Loughran suggested that in Fred Testor’s absence, the Sports Pavilion guidelines discussion should be tabled. Bill O’Keeffe made a motion to table the Sports Pavilion discussion until the next meeting. Mark Lamanna seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0. Motion passed unanimously.

- b. Sean Loughran distributed copies of a News-Times article that came out earlier that evening regarding a Parks and Recreation personnel matter, which would be further discussed during the executive session later in the meeting.

5. Director Update

- a. Steve Merullo reported that the Recreation Director position had not yet been posted. The details of the position are being negotiated and it is still being determined whether the position will be union or non-union.
- b. Budget: Steve Merullo reported that the Board of Selectmen has not yet presented the budget to the Board of Finance. He also reiterated from last month’s meeting that summer salary policies (beach staffing, rain days) will be altered in order to save the

town \$11K. On the down side, summer camp moved from 6 to 5 weeks due to the extended school year from the snow days that occurred in February. However, on the positive side, the summer day camp will be increasing the number of children accepted into the program this year which will generate additional revenue. The members discussed additional opportunities to increase revenue, the most feasible option being raising the Blue Raiders swim team fees from \$85 to \$90. Mark Lamanna made a motion to raise the Blue Raiders fee from \$85 to \$90. Melissa Fidanza seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Executive Session

Mark Lamanna made a motion to move the meeting into Executive Session to discuss the earlier referenced personnel issue. Bill O’Keeffe seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting moved to executive session at 8:15 p.m. No votes were taken during the executive session.

Bill O’Keeffe made a motion to return the meeting to regular session. Mark Lamanna seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting returned to regular session at 8:45 p.m.

7. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Sports Pavilion Usage: The guidelines will be discussed at the next meeting, as per the vote earlier in the meeting. Meanwhile, Steve Merullo reported that he had recently opened the facility to test the water and everything was operational. He also obtained 6 keys for the clubs that will be using the facility. Some clubs have expressed concern over the lack of porta-potties for access at the fields (i.e. the lower multi-purpose field) that are not in close proximity to the Sports Pavilion. Mr. Merullo recommended that the clubs/teams using those fields explore the possibility of funding portapotties if they believe they are necessary. Parks & Recreation is paying \$285/month to clean/maintain the bathrooms in the new Sports Pavilion. Bill O’Keeffe recommended that a special meeting be held in advance of the 4/12 regular meeting to vote on the Sports Pavilion usage agreement.

- b. Fields: Steve Burfeind reported that a meeting was held last week to review proposed field usage for the upcoming season. The high school teams first submitted their schedule, followed by the other clubs, and the requests were filled and scheduled. Marty Morgan (Lacrosse) and Mike Evans (soccer) agreed to work out any remaining slots amongst themselves.
Steve Merullo stated that there was some misinterpretation with the field usage fees in some cases last year, causing the 60/40 and 70/30 splits to work out differently than planned. Corrections will be made with the fees’ handling this year to ensure consistency.
Mr. Burfeind reminded the Commission that the Cashman field improvement funds were removed from the Selectmen’s budget pass. He said that NF Baseball still

wants to move forward with the lesser project, in the amount of \$5K that NF Baseball would fund. Mr. Merullo estimated that this would be a 3-day project and he is looking into outsourcing this.

- c. Waterfront: Steve Merullo stated that after all renewal fees were received by the deadline, there are 14 boat slips left to fill. He will proceed with contacting those on the waiting list to fill these slots. Sean Loughran had sent an e-mail out in recent weeks suggesting that the Vaughn's Neck area be cleaned up and have a sign placed indicating that it is "New Fairfield Property". This may encourage more New Fairfield boaters to use the area, and it could be a better place to picnic. Some of the commission members agreed to participate in the clean-up later this spring.
- d. Programming: Steve Merullo said the spring brochures will be going out in the next week. As for summer programs, he reported that Mr. Schlosser, a NF teacher, had some contacts who would be willing to run some programs internally that were previously handled by outside organizations (such as the Multi Sports Camp). These were popular programs and would be more cost effective if handled internally. In addition, Mr. Merullo is in discussions with the Pardalis basketball camp regarding summer programming. Mr. Merullo also said that he heard from a high school student who would like to do organize a 5K run for his SEE project (potentially with some help from Parks & Recreation). The members voiced some concerns over timing and competition with some long-standing 5K races in nearby towns. It would also need to be determined how much involvement Parks & Recreation would have with the project. Steve will provide more information at the next meeting.

8. Approval of Minutes (tabled from #3, above)

Bill O'Keeffe made a motion to approve the 2/8/10 minutes. Mark Lamanna seconded the motion.

Vote: 3-0-2 (2 abstentions as Melissa Fidanza and Steve Burfeind were not present at February's meeting)

9. Adjournment

Bill O'Keeffe made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mark Lamanna seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Vote: 5-0-0. Motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 12, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the Senior Center Community Room.