

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

**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**Minutes**  
**Monday, June 28, 2010**  
**7:30 p.m.**

**TOWN HALL**

**PRESENT:**

Sean Loughran, Bill O’Keeffe, Mark Lamanna, Tom Edwards, Steve Burfeind, Steve Merullo (Parks & Recreation Director), Linda Lull (Recreation Director), First Selectman John Hodge, Denise Coccozza (Commission Secretary)

**1. Call to Order:** Chairman Sean Loughran called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Bill O’Keeffe made a motion to accept the agenda. Mark Lamanna seconded the motion.

***Vote: 4-0-0. Motion passed unanimously.***

**2. Discussion of agenda items**

**a. Fields Committee Update** – Sean Loughran presented scenarios comparing the \$35 and \$40 per player fields usage fee. This would become effective during the spring 2011 season. He noted that the inner lanes of the track are worn out and may need repairs, which could amount to \$20K in expenses. Steve Merullo stated that there is a 5 year warrantee on the track for normal wear and tear. He will meeting with the track installation company soon to determine whether the necessary repairs will be covered under the warrantee. Steve Burfeind said that the Board of Education is responsible for controlling the usage of the track and Parks & Recreation contributes toward the maintenance. There was an agreement in 2006 that the fee setting responsibilities for all fields except for the tennis courts are shared between the Board of Education and Parks & Recreation. There was discussion that going forward, Parks & Recreation might look into changing that agreement to also make the track maintenance exclusive to BOE. Mark Lamanna made a motion to accept the fields usage rate increase from \$35 to \$40. Bill O’Keeffe seconded the motion.

***Vote: 4-0-0. Motion passed unanimously.***

**b. Fees** - The question arose about volleyball camp, and whether it is still considered a feeder program for high school sports. Steve Merullo confirmed that the program instructor is no longer a NF high school coach, so it is considered a third party program and therefore subject to the 60/40 split criteria.

**c. Beach Passes** – Sean Loughran posed the question of whether town employees should receive a free beach pass, and suggested that the commission vote on the

subject. Steve Merullo replied that currently town employees are not receiving a free beach pass, but members of the volunteer fire department do receive a free family beach pass each year. Bill O’Keeffe made a motion to continue the practice of not offering a free beach pass to town employees. Mark Lamanna seconded the motion.

***Vote: 4-0-0. Motion passed unanimously.***

Bill O’Keeffe made a motion to continue offering free family beach passes to members of the volunteer fire department. Mark Lamanna seconded the motion.

***Vote: 4-0-0. Motion passed unanimously***

**d. Summer Programs**

**i. Bands at the beach 7/17 & 8/21** – Mark Lamanna reported that there are 2 bands confirmed, 1 for each date. He suggested that advertising should include Channel 17, flyers at the boat docks, and Citizen News ads. Steve Merullo said the sandwich boards are also available. There was discussion on how much money should be spent on advertising. First Selectman John Hodge suggested combining several events in the newspaper ads, including the summer movies and any other camps/programs that still have space. Mark Lamanna said that he will work with Linda Lull on designing an ad. Bill O’Keeffe made a motion to approve a one-time ½ page ad in the Citizen News to promote the music at the beach as well as other upcoming events such as movies and camps/programs that still have open space. Tom Edwards seconded the motion.

***Vote: 4-0-0. Motion passed unanimously***

Linda Lull asked whether rain dates had been set for the bands at the beach. This had not been addressed previously. 7/31 will be considered as a possibility, based on the bands’ availability, which Mark Lamanna will look into. Steve Burfeind suggested that having the band(s) play at one of the upcoming summer movies could be a “rain date” option.

**ii. Summer Camp** – The members discussed summer camp enrollment and whether or not to expand registration. The current limit is 140 campers per week. Steve Merullo said he thinks that the camp director, Brian Stroh, had quoted 165 as a maximum allowable number. Mr. Merullo reported that there are currently 10 – 15 kids on the waiting lists and suggested that the Commission approve allowing those campers into the program. There was some discussion that age group distribution should be taken into consideration if registration is expanded. Steve Burfeind made a motion to expand summer day camp enrollment beginning the week of 7/5, not to exceed 15 additional children per week, subject to age group limitations.

***Vote: 4-0-0. Motion passed unanimously***

The issue also arose that there may be a couple of campers who have not yet been paid for. Steve Merullo said that he will investigate this right away.

**iii. Ultimate Play Camps** - Sean Loughran reported that there has been correspondence between a third party and Parks & Recreation, regarding “Ultimate Play” programs that in some cases are competitive with and running during the same weeks at Parks & Recreation programs. The members were

concerned that allowing these programs would diminish the success of programs that are run through Parks & Recreation. The third party does not wish to run its programs through Parks & Recreation. There was discussion that if Ultimate Play is approved to use the NF fields for programs, what would be the appropriate category and fee structure. Steve Burfeind suggested that research be done regarding which usage forms have been signed. John Hodge stated that Steve Merullo has not signed off on any usage forms for this organization. Bill O’Keeffe made a motion to approve the request by Ultimate Play to run the Rebels Youth Football Camp from 7/12 – 7/14, and deny the other requests.

***Vote: 4-0-0. Motion passed unanimously***

- iv. Summer Movie Series** – First Selectman John Hodge indicated that the movie sponsors were promised a set amount of advertising, and asked that the Commission approve moving forward with this. Tom Edwards made a motion to approve a total of 4 ½ page ads in the Citizen News to promote the beach bands, movies and other programs that have openings during the summer. Mark Lamanna seconded the motion.

***Vote: 3-1-0. Motion passed; Bill O’Keeffe opposed.***

**v. Town Beach Incidents**

1. John Hodge informed the Commission that recently, an unidentified person showed up at the town beach and introduced himself as a new beach employee. Subsequently, he was left to watch the gate and ended up leaving and taking the cash collected (\$120). There are leads as to the person’s identity and Mr. Hodge is optimistic that he will be caught.
2. John Hodge also made the Commission aware that there was a lifeguard recently instructed to clean the weeds, and the lifeguard sprayed Round-Up while the beach was crowded with people. No one was hurt and the Health Department is aware of the situation. Mr. Greer is not available on weekends, and the members agreed that someone should be in charge and on site at all times who is aware of proper procedures. Linda Lull said she will address this immediately with Mr. Greer.
3. 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend – Mark Lamanna expressed concern about the holiday weekend and likelihood of people parking at the Town Park and heading up to Squantz Pond. He suggested that extra manpower be secured to watch the parking lot. John Hodge stated that he is checking to see if there are any police officers who can be put on duty to watch the Town Park parking lot. There are bilingual flyers available that can be given out when Squantz Pond is full, with directions to Sherwood Isle as an alternative destination.

**3. Adjournment**

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

***Vote: 4-0-0. Motion passed unanimously***

Prepared by Denise Coccozza, July 3, 2010