

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

REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2020
7:00 p.m.
COMMUNITY ROOM AT 33 ROUTE 37

MINUTES

Members Present: Sean Loughran (Chairman), Elisa Beckett Flores, Steve Burfeind, Mark Lamanna, Jim Ogden, Gary Remley and Chris Van Steen

Members Absent: Shane Cosentino and Tom Edwards

Town official present: Linda Lull, Parks and Recreation Director and Selectman Khris Hall

Guests: Kim LaTourette, BOE Representative

Call to Order- Chairman Sean Loughran called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Public Comment- Selectman Khris Hall asked to discuss the Parks and Recreation Commission's proposed budget.

Approval of Minutes- Gary Remley made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2019 regular meeting as presented. Mark Lamanna seconded the motion.

Vote: 7-0-0 (Motion approved)

Chairman's comments

Sean Loughran noted that the budget will be discussed at tonight's meeting. He further spoke of an email sent by Buildings and Grounds Director Lloyd Decker regarding the boat docks.

Budget documents

Selectman Khris Hall asked questions of the proposed budget for the Parks and Rec Commission and specifically \$70,000 for a new Beach House and \$30,000 for town fields.

- **Beach House (\$70,000)**- The Selectman would like to have definitive plans for a Beach House and referred to the Brookfield Beach House or possibly the Sherman Beach House as models. It was noted that the Brookfield Beach House was built with a STEAP grant and there was a discussion of the possibility of getting a STEAP grant for New Fairfield. Although there were some concerns about declining usage of the beach house, it was noted that there will be support from the Selectman to bring this forward for a STEAP

grant application. It was noted that First Selectman Pat Del Monaco will be speaking with Town Engineer Tony Iadarola regarding an approximate cost. There was a discussion of putting funding aside every year for this purpose. There was a suggestion of having a special meeting to specifically discuss the Beach House.

- Fields (\$30,000) - There was a discussion of fees collected and cash flow needed above and beyond what is received for programs. It was noted that the reserve fund is lower than usual due to the withdrawal of \$119,000 taken for capital improvements. This was done last year but will not be done in the future so cash flow should improve. Selectman Hall asked for a written explanation of cash flow for the various activities.

Director update

Linda Lull noted that:

- Boat slip letters were sent out last week. The cost for boat slips was increased by \$200. There was a brief discussion of which board sets the boat dock fees and the role of the Parks and Rec commission in setting fees. The payments are due by March 27th.
- Postings for Seasonal employees are available online through January 24th.
- Spoke of the possibility of upgrading the VSI (Vermont Systems Inc.) online system. This will be discussed later in the meeting.
- Will discuss employee salaries that need to be increased due to the increase in the CT minimum wage.

Summer fees and staff salaries

There was a lengthy discussion of fairest way to increase salaries due to the increase to the CT minimum wage to \$11.00 per hour up from \$10.10 per hour from last year. It was noted that the wage will increase again next year by \$1.00 to \$12.00 per hour for the 2021season. There was also a discussion of the number of campers and the optimal number of employees including the possibility of hiring a third Assistant Director.

Steve Burfeind made a motion to increase the salary for the entire returning Day Camp staff by .90 per hour and to increase the price of camp from \$155 per week to \$165 per week. Gary Remley seconded the motion.

Vote: 7-0-0 (Motion approved)

Elisa Beckett Flores made a motion to approve the following rates for after hour day camp fees:

- Early drop off 7:30 am to 3:30 pm at \$190 per week
- Late pick up until 5:00 pm at \$205 per week
- Early and late from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm at \$215 per week.

Jim Ogden seconded the motion. **Vote: 7-0-0 (Motion approved)**

Steve Burfeind made a motion to increase the salary for the entire returning waterfront staff except the parking attendant by .90 per hour and to keep the price of the Beach passes at the same rate as the 2019 season. Jim Ogden seconded the motion. **Vote: 7-0-0 (Motion approved)**

It was noted that there will be approximately 21 lifeguards for this season and there will not be a swim team.

Jim Ogden made a motion to increase the salary for returning parking attendants and cinema director by .25 per hour. Elisa Beckett Flores seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-1-0 (Motion approved- Steve Burfeind opposed)**

Jim Ogden made a motion to increase the salary for returning cinema techs by .90 per hour. Gary Remley seconded the motion. **Vote: 6-0-1(Motion approved- Elisa Beckett Flores abstained)**

VSI (Vermont Systems Inc.)

Linda Lull spoke of the possible upgrade to the new version of VSI systems for the Parks and Rec office. It was noted that this is the current system that is used but the upgrade would allow residents to create an account online. The price for the upgrade is \$9,600 per year for it to be on the cloud and \$8,500 for a non cloud based system. It was decided that the system should be on the cloud. The commission asked for a demonstration and will discuss at a meeting in the near future.

Adjournment- Gary Remley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25pm. Steve Burfeind seconded the motion. **Vote: 7-0-0 (Motion approved)**