

**MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman John Fontana called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm in the Parks and Recreation office, 75 Main Street, Southington, CT.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Chairman John Fontana, Vice Chairman Megan O. Maruzo, Commissioners Joseph LaPorte and Joanne D. Palmieri; and Director of Recreation William J. Masci and Acting Superintendent of Parks David Lapreay.

Excused: David Kanute, Commissioner and Superintendent of Parks Richard Egidio, Sr.

MINUTES:

Commissioner LaPorte made a motion to approve the minutes of September 3, 2009. Commissioner Palmieri seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

VISITORS:

Steve Pintarich, 282 Loper Street addressed the Board. (See comments in letter attached hereto.) Mr. Lapreay said he would take care of having the bushes referred to removed. Mr. Pintarich also asked if the eternal light could be looked at as it doesn't seem to be working. Mr. Lapreay said he would look into it.

John N. Barry, Chairman of the Town Council addressed the Board. I am here in my capacity as one member of the Council and I am not representing the Council. I had received communication from a parent concerned about some of the programming in our community for children. Her concern there was that the Parks & Rec Department does not have any type of programming for any children with autism. I understand other towns in the state provide some type of autism programming. Horse therapy was discussed. I think there is something we could do as a community next year to offer some type of programming for children with autism. Something that takes place outside and gets the child out in the fresh air. The Director was asked to investigate this and report back. Mr. Masci referred to the autism program in Wallingford and he would talk with them. We do have to have a person who is experienced with teaching children with autism. Commissioner Palmieri noted her son deals with autistic children and she would speak with him and get some suggestions as to what to offer.

COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS

Southington Festival Chorale - Mr. Masci said everybody was mailed something. That's a budgetary item. We can try to put it back in the budget next year and see what happens. Commissioner Palmieri advised they go to the Finance Board and see what happens. Commissioner LaPorte recommended we send a letter explaining the budget cuts and it wasn't just them that were cut. After discussion, Mr. Masci said he would write a letter explaining it.

Fundraising by the group was discussed aCld maybe could be included as a suggestion in the letter.

Jonathan Blaise - Defender - Mr. Masci commented the letter is self explanatory. He wants to see refreshments during his event to get some money to put back into the program. After discussion, Mr. LaPorte made a motion to approve the request with the condition that he can only serve when their program is in effect and once the program is closed they are not able to sell any more. Ms. Palmieri seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Ms. Maruzzo brought up an email sent by Kathy Ricard regarding kids at Derynoski riding bikes all around. She suggested we have one of our parks be used for bikes and skateboarding. The Chair informed her we have that at Slopers. I told her that we had discussed it in the past. Discussion followed regarding kids riding bikes at other locations in town. Mr. Masci said they are chasing them off the school grounds. The Chair said he would get back to Mrs. Ricard.

(Mrs. Palmieri Jeft the meeting at this time.)

REPORT: DIRECTOR OF RECREATION

Mr. Masci said on the trips, we have one going to Montreal and we're sharing that one as well as the Boston Do Your Own Thing. We've got three UCONN Women's games and one men's game for the months of December and January. The January trip to Florida for the snowbirds, the response was poor, so we just dropped it.

Crescent Lake, kayak rentals concluded with Suburban Sports. Rich Nappi is compiling an accounting of how many rentals were there and whatever the price is in their RFP, that's what we'll be getting for the whole season.

Bow hunting, so far they've gotten two does that were 50 lbs and 100 lbs, dressed, and one buck which is 140 lbs dressed. The first session concludes December 5th and the second session started the following day to December 31st. As far as the DEP goes, we cannot go any further than December 31st. We allow 12 a day up there and they're off the beaten path. People are not in danger when they walk down the path. The guys working up there, they tell the people to make sure they don't wander off the trails because of bow hunting.

On Friday, October 23rd, we've got the wolves coming back to town. They want to use the tennis courts to let them run, so we're going to close the courts. I'll get in touch with Dave to put a sign up. They're unbelievable - the wolves. I believe it's like from 11:00 am to 11:00 pm.

We're working a lot with Jim Champagne this week with the modem for the Apple Harvest Festival. We did that three years ago and I don't know why they didn't think of it the last few years, but all of a sudden now they want to use their computers down at the storage trailer. We had one for John Ryan. We got together with **AT&T** and they're going to install it tomorrow afternoon so they'll have it for the weekend.

We have all the flyers for our programs delivered to the schools. aware of what's going on.

The yoga, we have a program now on a Monday evening at Strong. Sherri DiNello from the 80E called me and wanted to start another yoga program in the afternoon specifically at the high school for town employees. She wanted to run it from 3:30 to 4:30. I told her town hall employees get out at 4:30. I guess it's more or less for teachers. And, the reason why they want to go through the Parks & Rec is because there will be no rental for the program.

I told her we could help them out in getting the facility if they come through us, but there is not gc"ng to be any cost to us. After discussion, Mr. Masci will go along with them.

The Drug Rally is October 14th. It is going to be on the mobile stage and we need someone to open it and close it. Discussion about whether it is going to be the mobile stage or the gazebo that is used. Mr. Masci said he would verify that with Ms. Kenefick. Discussion of the cost to open and close the mobile stage.

The storage trailer is going to go back after next week but it's got to all be emptied out and they're gOIng to do that either Monday or Tuesday. will be the This last week they'll be using that storage trailer, hopefully. have no other We programs going on.

All school facilities for our WInter program are secured. We have everything ready to go. Registration for basketball and a few other things are coming up this week. Of course, after the registration, there is always the late ones and they come in here and they give us the forms and they fill them out and the groups come in and pick them up.

Everything is going good. We're ready to roll. Mr. LaPorte made a motion to approve the report of the Direccor of Recreation. Ms. Maruzzo seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

REPORT: SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS

Mr. Lapreay reported we are still in the summer mode. ["lol-Jing, upkeep of the restrooms, garbage, mowing the fields, liming the fields. That's still ongoing.

Both pools were closed, drained and winterized for the year. set. They're all

We had a crew out doing all the mums around the Green for the Apple Harvest and the PIa n t s v i II e ,the t r i a n g l e , R i c c i a (Ja y .

I've been having a guy go out weekly on our blower to keep up with the complaint about the dog feces on the trail. That's been working out well.

Spraying the Round UP around the rocks and fences for the season began.

Monarch Drive is a new open space that just came to us about two weeks ago. I guess there was a complaint by neighbors, overgrown trees and shrubs. It was a mess. We never knew about it in the past. We cleaned it out. Took like three or four days cleaning it out. We put it on our list for snow removal now and mowin~. That'll be taken care of in the future.

All the signs at Crescent Lake for the closing times have been changed and updated due to it getting dark early now. We'll keep up with that as times change.

The muddy area at the dog park which has been a big issue lately, we fenced it off with a snow fence about a week ago. The wind today blew it allover. Tomorrow we'll have to go out and redo it again. We seeded it and it started growing again. Discussion followed about the dog park and filling in the parking lot area with grass. Tony and Dave have no issue with it. We'll have to dig out a little bit. It actually wouldn't flood as much. And, then with making the parking lot on the east side, we have to work with that with engineering. The Chalr said one day they would go out and map out the area to see how much we need and check with the fence company to see how much we need. At least if we can start to do it in phasing we'll have an idea of how much. Mr. Lapreay suggested putting chips down in the spring when it is muddy.

Bob Cusano from the Hlstorical Society contacted me about two weeks ago helping out tearing out shrubs around their building which I didn't have an issue with. Mike Manware is heading that and he's pretty much already done with it. And, then we'll start on the sign across the street for the Legion.

The Apple Harvest, wehelp with Jim Champagne setting up. down. Bringing stuff That's about it.

Mr. Lapreay notified the Board that someone had stopped by from a tree service company who wants to hold a tree climbing contest in our parks. They've been driving around and checking out trees. Tall ones. They want to have a contest. I'm going to refer him to Bill Masci. Just a heads up.

Mr. LaPorte said that Mr. Lapreay is doing a great job. Everything still looks as good as ever. Pass it on to the guys. Mr.Lapreay thanked the Board for the comments and would pass them on to the guys.

Ms.Maruzzo made a motion to accept the Superintendent of Parks report. Mr. LaPorte seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

REPORT OF PARKS:

Mr. LaPorte reported on the drive in property. We went over the layout the way it currently exists and a lot of the dirt is taken away and what is left could be very useful to us. We are hoping we can get some preliminary grading done and get the thing started. John and I and Tony Tranquillo met there and he told us that the area that we were concerned with because of the contaminated dirt, that area has been tested and is clean. We don't have to worry about that because that would have been a major expense. Tony is

preparing the bid proposals to demo the old concession stand and he is trying to get the trees next to the road, get that taken care of. I think there is someone who will cut the trees and take the wood. If we get that berm knocked down there is a wide open view into the park. Tony is working to get the site plan ready for the next PZC meeting. If that is approved, we can start doing something. I have a couple of guys lined up to do some grading. It looks relatively flat except that there is a probably 3 to 4 foot pitch from one end to the other. If we can push it down to the lower end, we can get it finished and get the topsoil. We would then be in pretty good shape.

Mr. LaPorte said that before anybody cuts any trees down, we'll give them a letter okaying it. They have to provide a certificate of insurance.

Jaycee Park: Mr. Masci stated, although he thought it was a police matter, we had a complaint that cars are going in there and she thinks drugs are going on. The resident is going to write a letter and I'll pass it on to you.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Masci reminded everyone of the F01 meeting on Thursday, October 8, 2009 at 7:00 in the Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ms. Maruzzo made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Mr. LaPorte. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

(Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 o'clock, p.m.)

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gianoni
Recording Secretary