

**PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**  
**Wednesday, February 3, 2010**  
**Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**ROLL CALL:**

*Present:* Chairman John Fontana, Commissioners Michael Fasulo, Joseph LaPorte and Joanne D. Palmieri; Director of Recreation William J. Masci, Acting Superintendent of Parks David Lapreay.

*Excused:* Vice Chairman Megan O. Maruzo

**MINUTES:**

Commissioner Fasulo made a motion, seconded by Commissioner LaPorte, to accept the Minutes of the January 6, 2010 meeting as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

**VISITORS:** None

**COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

**DIRECTOR OF RECREATION REPORT:**

Mr. Masci said there may be a couple more trips to ball games and possibly a trip to New Hampshire. He and Mr. Lapreay met with people who supply projectors. They had discussions about renting vs. purchasing projectors for showing movies at the drive-in property. They will prepare a package of information on the various items and send it to Mr. Masci. When he receives it, he will forward information to the board. Inflatable screens were discussed but were considered unreliable because of wind conditions, etc. We can use the existing screen, but it will need to be painted; there are a few chips in it. It is structurally sound. We still have the old projectors in storage but they are dinosaurs. Some people had talked about having cars drive onto the property for movie watching. While Mr. Masci did not think that was a good idea, Mr. Lapreay noted that the area where the movies would be shown does not have sprinklers. Rental is the way to go with the projectors. It is cheaper, and we don't know how often we would use them. Also would have to consider where to store the projector if purchased. An FM radio station would be used; people can bring portable radios. Commissioner LaPorte proposed that Michael Riccio be an official member of the committee to review the proposals. He is very interested and would be a good person to have on the committee. Everyone agreed. Mr. Masci agreed to forward the email with further information as soon as he receives it.

Little League registration will be held this week (Saturday) and the following week at the high school. In past years we have used Derynoski School but there is traffic with the basketball program. There was no ice skating today. People are clamoring for it. Mr. Lapreay said perhaps next year we could build a skating rink and flood it ourselves. The water runs too quickly in our ponds causing the ice to be too thin for skating.

Mr. Masci said there is a budget meeting with the Town Manager tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. if

anyone is interested in attending. He handed out copies of the Recreation Department budget and reviewed some of the highlights. In the Organized Recreation budget, there was discussion about the one-time allotments for Northern Little League, Southern Little League and Southington Midget Football. Much discussion followed regarding what the leagues are proposing to do with the requested funds if approved. Letters were submitted by the leagues but there was no letter from Northern LL. Mr. Masci will call for their official request letter prior to the budget meeting.

Commissioner LaPorte provided a brief summary of progress at the drive-in property. The concession stand is down. Discussion followed on work to be done, needed fill, etc. before the pavilion could be built. He estimated that it would cost about \$130,000 to construct the pavilion with rest rooms. Considering other costs, the \$200,000 grant will not cover everything.

Mr. Masci said at the Apple Harvest Committee meeting, there was discussion about opening and closing the stage for the two weekends. A suggestion was made to open it on Friday and leaving it open all weekend, then do the same the following weekend in order to save overtime of union employees. Mr. Masci was concerned about safety and vandalism and contacted Wenger, the people who supplied us with the stage. The email from Bill Beck, sales manager, was handed out. They recommend that the stage be closed and locked each night due to possible storm conditions and also to prevent the threat of serious injury or death from people climbing on the unit, falling, etc. The board agreed. A big apple sign (similar to the one at Lewis Farms) will be made up and hung on the Parks & Recreation sign on the Town Green. We received approval from the Zoning Officer.

South End School will be demolished sometime this summer. This year we will use the gym at DePaolo Middle School for the playground program and Memorial Pool for swimming. There will be no playground program at Recreation Park this year.

Softball. Mr. Masci spoke with Mr. Prozzo today. They decided not to spend \$1,500 for the website. Also will not spend \$500 for stickers for the bats. They will be printed here in the office and placed on the bats.

Mr. Masci said he will be having a new program – Zumba. It will start sometime in March and April at Strong School.

Motion was made by Commissioner Palmieri, seconded by Commissioner Fasulo, to accept the report of the Director of Recreation. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Palmieri asked if anything was going to happen with the autistic program. At the last meeting it was suggested to work with the Board of Education. For the playground program, the BOE pays for one-on-one with kids in the CREC program. We would start with that. Mr. Masci said he would have Gerri call and get more information on the policy and procedure. He said he would have it for the next meeting.

#### **ACTING SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS REPORT:**

Mr. Lapreay said that he would be attending the budget meeting and will speak on his capital items. The department is down at least two men; he is asking for an additional person. Discussion followed on the capital items and their priority.

Chairman Fontana spoke to the board about the discussions that have been taking place regarding reorganization of the Parks Department and consolidation with Highway/Public Works. Many towns were surveyed and not many are combined. He is not in favor of this change and stated several reasons. Further discussion will have to take place and unions will need to be consulted before any changes are made. Commissioner LaPorte believed that the board should write a letter in opposition, giving the reasons why. He and the Chairman planned to meet next week to compose an appropriate letter.

Mr. Lapreay said his written report is similar to last month. They are continuing tree pruning downtown, brush cutting, etc. He is helping Art Secondo and the Chamber of Commerce with a lighting project downtown. They want to put lights on some of the trees. As time permits, they are helping with that on a temporary basis. They are trying to find the right lights. Using solar power, they may not work well on both sides of the street.

Motion was made by Commissioner LaPorte, seconded by Commissioner Palmieri, to accept the report of the Acting Superintendent of Parks. Motion carried unanimously.

**REPORT OF PARKS:** Crescent Lake. Mr. Masci and Mr. Lapreay are taking turns going up there since there is no monitoring during January, February and March. Mr. Lapreay is checking for ice fishing. People want to ice skate but it is not permitted. It is too dangerous with the holes; people could fall through. Have not heard any complaints on the Dog Park. Mr. Lapreay said it is muddy there. He was looking at chips and contacted a couple of towns. They use chips and there is no mud. You will never have grass there; it is pretty much impossible in that area. He wondered if the chips would hurt the dogs' feet. At least we could put chips in the entranceway. Rails to Trails will start going shortly. Question arose about the old railroad station owned by two people. Someone talked about doing something with that building. Paul McCalla is restoring it.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Budget 2010-2011. Motion was made by Commissioner Fasulo, seconded by Commissioner Palmieri, to accept the Recreation Department budget, subject to receiving a request letter from Northern Little League, for a total budget of \$611,849. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner LaPorte, seconded by Commissioner Palmieri, to approve the budget of the Parks Department in the amount of \$1,191,870. Motion carried.

Mr. Masci said no vote was required for the Organized Recreation or Community Celebrations budgets.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, motion was made by Commissioner LaPorte to adjourn the meeting, at 7:45p.m., seconded by Commissioner Palmieri. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Berardinelli  
Recording Secretary