

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
Wednesday, February 9, 2011

Minutes of Special Meeting

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman John Fontana called the special 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; Vice Chairman Michael Fasulo, Commissioners David Kanute and Joseph LaPorte; Director of Recreation William J. Masci, Asst. Supt. of Parks David A. Lapreay.
Absent: Commissioner Joanne D. Palmieri.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Fasulo made a motion, seconded by Commissioner LaPorte, to accept the Minutes of the January 5, 2011 meeting as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

VISITORS: None

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Crescent Lake – Deer Hunting Report. The full report was in the packet. Total number of hunters was 43. There were 14 deer harvested.

DIRECTOR OF RECREATION REPORT:

Mr. Masci handed out a copy of an email from Mark Sciota regarding a request for additional parking spaces on town property on the side of the plaza that contains Baby's World. It is next to the drive-in property. The request to the Park Commission is whether they had any objection to the town's leasing the spaces which could be used during off hours by the town for events at the drive-in. Discussion followed. John Salerno (owner of Tops Market) wishes to open a restaurant in the plaza and zoning regulations would require the addition of 15 parking spaces to the current 44 spaces in the plaza. The plaza owner indicated that the 44 spaces are never fully utilized and would prefer not to pave over the grassy area for parking but would do it if necessary to move the project along. After discussion, Commissioner Kanute made a motion granting permission to use the space on the side of the building for additional parking subject to other town approvals. Seconded by Commissioner Fasulo and carried unanimously.

Mr. Masci reported that a new trips brochure was made up and people are picking them up; there is nothing much right now. We have had to reschedule things due to the snow cancellations. As an example, on Friday afternoon he received a call from Fred Cox at the BOE saying that all activities at DePaolo, Kennedy and Derynoski schools had to be cancelled because they would be removing snow from the roofs. Mr. Masci cancelled the recreation programs for the weekend and then found out that the roofs were cleared on Tuesday. There were a lot of irate parents due to the cancellations.

Mr. Masci had his introductory meeting with the new Town Manager Garry Brumback. He went over the activities of the department. He will keep abreast with all departments. We also had the first Department Heads meeting with Mr. Brumback. He seems very positive and is interested in everyone's ideas.

Letters were sent out to potential sponsors for Music on the Green. When they come back we will start getting contracts out. After speaking with Jerry Limmer, Mr. Masci asked the board how they felt about adding a couple of concerts to the schedule. Last year we had 13. If we add one on the beginning and one on the end, we could do 15 concerts, beginning say the last week of May and ending the first week in September. In other years we have done as many as 17. No decision was made.

School Nature Day will be done again by Bonnie Sica and her group with 4th graders. She will be

drawing something up and will come in to present the plan. Vouchers will have to be made out for all the people who get paid. There is \$6,500 in the budget for this event. Kayak Rentals. An RFP will be prepared and will be sent to Suburban Sport but also to a company in Collinsville who is interested in bidding. Crescent Lake. Mr. Masci has been checking it out. The gate is hemmed in with snow right now. Commissioner Kanute asked if there was any money in the budget to put some fish in there. The answer was yes. The DEP will come in the spring to check it. Commissioners suggested calling the DEP soon rather than waiting for spring so that we can get on their schedule early. Mr. Masci said he will ask about it when the DEP does the boating course. The camera has been fixed. Shortly after the last meeting, Commissioner Palmieri commented on it at the Police Department and it was checked out. It is working but is not very high definition. Dave Lapreay said there is an agreement with the Parks Department to take care of maintenance of the camera. Murals along the trail. There was an article in today's paper. SHS art teacher and Carole Milano of the Arts Council are interested. Three of the owners are interested in it. Girls volleyball starts March 15; applications are coming in. A notice for softball went out to all 36 teams asking whether they want to come back.

Some discussion followed regarding groups being charged for rental and "wear and tear" fees (about \$100 every time). Commissioner Kanute said he has received several bills and questioned whether they were correct. Mr. Masci said activities that are under Parks & Rec should not be charged rental fees; however, custodial fees are charged. Commissioner Kanute said the custodial bills have been paid but has not paid the wear and tear invoices. Mr. Masci will call Fred Cox tomorrow and check into the situation.

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

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS:

Mr. Lapreay said they have been clearing snow for the entire month of January. Question arose about clearing the Library lot; it was not a problem. They were able to do it. In response to a question, Mr. Lapreay said once or twice a couple of Highway and Parks guys were combined for jobs but other than that, there is no difference in the operations of the department. Commissioner Kanute said he heard that the idea of Parks & Rec taking over maintenance of all the school fields were coming up again; it was brought up at a BOE meeting. No one believed it would happen; it would probably become a union issue with the BOE union.

REPORT ON PARKS:

Chairman Fontana gave an update on the Armory as discussed at the last meeting. He made contact with several people, got a meeting scheduled and then received a call saying that our representatives have to set up a meeting. Confusing as to who is supposed to do what. He is sorry that he wasted a month.

Rails-to-Trails. Dave Lapreay said we plow it when it snows (after other areas) and salt it for the ice. They were able to widen it the last few days. It is not officially closed so people have to be careful.

Dog Park. Mr. Masci received a call about doing dog obedience classes; they would need to fence in the area. The interested parties will approach the Dog Park Association about it. If it moves forward, they would have to come to the Park Board first; it would be doing business on town property.

Drive-in. Commissioner Fasulo said they had a meeting. They are getting ready to approach people who sponsored movies last year. They are working on a list of movies. Mr. Masci reviewed the requests he had since he wasn't aware of the meeting or he would have presented them. One that Commissioner Fasulo did not have was Newington Children's Hospital. Commissioner LaPorte said this year the sponsors will get even amounts at the end of the season, not after the sponsored movie. This will give a fair share to everyone and considers rainy days. Mr. Masci said Garry Brumback is interested in receiving updates on how the drive-in theater is progressing. Some discussion followed on anticipated donations that will help with the cost of developing the property. Depending on the weather, the pavilion should be done by the end of June.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chairman Fontana gave an update on football. He had three meeting dates and all were cancelled because of snow storms. Another will be scheduled in the near future, possibly the second week of March. The voting process really needs to be looked at.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Budget. The budget has been submitted to the Town Manager and is in process. The Town Manager must submit his budget to the Board of Finance next week.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, motion was made by Commissioner Fasulo, seconded by Commissioner Kanute to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Berardinelli
Recording Secretary