

**PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**  
**Wednesday, May 5, 2010**  
**Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman John Fontana called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. in the Parks and Recreation office, 75 Main Street, Southington, CT.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

*Absent/Excused:* Vice Chairman Megan O. Maruzo; Commissioner Michael Fasulo

**MINUTES:**

Commissioner LaPorte made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Palmieri, to accept the Minutes of the April 7, 2010 meeting as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

**VISITORS:**

1. Craig Pellegrini, 681 West St. Mr. Pellegrini said he had received approval to do the concession at Recreation Park this year. He thanked the board for the approval and wanted to know when he could get a key so that he could take a look inside the concession stand. Dave Lapreay said he could meet him there. He gave Mr. Pellegrini his number and asked him to call to schedule a time to meet.

**COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS:**

1. Letter from Parking Authority. This was a thank you note for the Park Department's help installing signs in municipal parking lots. Commissioner Palmieri asked about the proposed sign for the Town Green discussed at the last meeting. Mr. Lapreay said they want to put it on the decorative light poles, not on the green. It looks fine. They have a few more signs they want the department to install.

2. South End School Relay for Life Team. Mr. Masci said they want to use the softball fields at the park on June 6 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and to put a sign out in front. There is no conflict. He told them it was OK.

3. Letter from Edward Jones & Co. They are sponsoring a fund raiser for The Epilepsy Foundation of CT and want to use the adult softball field at Panthorn Park on August 14. They sent in their certificate of insurance. Nothing is going on; it is fine. Mr. Masci booked it.

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**DIRECTOR OF RECREATION REPORT:**

Mr. Masci reported that the NASCAR trip to Ludlow, VT, was cancelled due to lack of interest. New York City trip, Ellis Island trip and three Red Sox games are all sold out. Kayak rentals are scheduled to start Memorial Day weekend. Kevin of Suburban Sport had his son helping but the son has taken another position; Kevin is looking for someone else to help with the rental program. Hopefully, it will start on Memorial Day. Dave Lapreay will put more sand on the beach area.

Mr. Masci said he will be doing extensive work with Munis for the Nature Day program. Bonnie Sica has about 14 people who will exhibit so he has to enter requests for each of them before June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Masci noted that there have been a lot of changes at the schools with the PTOs using them, causing him to rearrange things and make lots of phone calls. Registration for the playground program is May 10-12 at Derynoski. There will be three two-week sessions and one one-week session with 100 kids each. The BOE does special needs children one on one with a parent, and the BOE pays for them. This is over and above the 100 that we register. Youth Theater registration is done; it is full. They will be doing Pippin and Willie Wonka. Completed workforce life guards. Chris Palmieri likes to have extra on hand. Tennis is filled up. The first of three sessions start June 28 for two weeks, using the high school courts. Started with match play for the middle schools and also the high school. It is like tournament play. Golf lessons

start tomorrow, first session for five weeks. Ages 7-15 is Junior and 16 and up is Adult. The second session is June 24 and the third session starts August 12. Clubs will be provided for newcomers. Zumba classes start June 7. The last time we had 75 participants. This time we are limiting it to 60. Safe boating is on-going.

Mr. Masci is working with Bonnie Sica on Nature Day which is Thursday, June 3. She contacted Dave Lapreay about barrels, port-a-pottys, etc. Mens and Womens softball leagues have started this week. There are 33 mens and 5 womens teams. The ladies will play a 16 game schedule and the men will play 20 games. Mr. Masci is working with Chuck Motes on a new program for remote control airplanes at the drive-in property. If kids are interested they could start up a club.

Mr. Masci reminded the board that concerts will start on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Just about everything is squared away with the sponsors. Storage trailers will be coming in a week or two before. Board meetings will be on Thursdays during concert season. He asked if they wished to change the meeting time to 5:30 in case of rain dates for the music but it was the consensus to keep the meetings at 6:30.

Commissioner LaPorte questioned the low attendance at the last middle school dance. Mr. Masci said that the YMCA has a Twilight program every Friday night for everyone – you don't have to be a Y member. He had asked John Myers if they could suspend their program on the nights we have our dances but he declined. There are only two dances left – May 21 and June 4. After discussion, it was decided to see how the May dance goes. If attendance is very low we may decide to cancel the last dance. Mr. Masci noted that he is down to 7 chaperones and only one policeman.

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

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

Mr. Lapreay's written report was in the packet. They are doing the usual mowing, ball parks, cleaning rest rooms, etc. At Recreation Park a huge pine tree fell back in the fall. Dlugos chipped it up and cleared it out. There are 6 or 7 more that are bad and need to be cut. Those will be done. Linear trail – received complaints by Councilmen about missing signs. They were ordered and replaced. It is an ongoing problem. They cost \$40-\$50 depending on size. Six were replaced this week; Mr. Lapreay noticed two more missing. They get spray painted or stolen.

Dog Park. Mr. Lapreay tried to get chips at Panthorn but they were all used to finish the construction project. He spoke with Jim Gura the other day. Some stone will be put in. A faucet will be moved to the back fence because it has been leaking and flooding the area. We cannot change the grade at all. There was some discussion about pieces of glass at the dog park. Commissioner LaPorte believes they are coming up from the ground because of its previous uses. It will probably be an ongoing problem. Mr. Lapreay said he told the guys if they see any to remove it. Mr. Pellegrini said he has 5-7 yards of chips he is willing to donate if the town could use them; the town would just have to pick them up. Mr. Lapreay will talk to him about it. He also told a few companies if they are dumping chips that we are interested in them.

Town Green clock – lights on four sides have been out for a while. Mr. Lapreay called the company who maintains the clock. They were there today taking care of it.

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 said Butch has been clearing some of the trails. Someone called today to say that a speed boat was on the lake but had no other information. Drive-in. Commissioner LaPorte has been trying to get enough people to say they would approve the \$125,000 funding (cut from \$175,000) in the budget. If the money doesn't get approved we will probably get the

pavilion done and that's it. He is in almost constant email communication with Council members. He is supposed to meet with Pete Romano to go over the numbers and go from there.

Memorial Park. Chairman Fontana asked Mr. Lapreay about the rest rooms. They are very old and not up to date. There is rot in there but we cover it up. They are cleaned every day and as of now we can open them. They were cut from the proposed budget. Discussion followed on what other items were cut from the budget. Mr. Masci responded that besides the \$20,000 cut for the rest rooms, the wrestling mats \$3,000 was cut, YMCA \$11,000, Southern Little League \$15,000 was cut by the Town Manager to \$7,500 and cut to zero by the BOF. The pool vacuums (\$10,000) were cut. Mr. Lapreay said he was asked today to write a letter about why we needed them (request of a council person). One of the vacuums we have now is 10 years old and the other is 11 years old. The company that repairs them said the life span for these vacuums is 7-8 years tops. It really doesn't pay to keep repairing them because there is no guarantee that they will last. Commissioner Palmieri said she would write an email to the Council in support of the restoration.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Drive-in movie committee report. Mike Riccio reported on the committee's first major meeting held two weeks ago. The main items were:

- Ticket prices would be \$10 for local residents and \$12 for out of town per carload. Some discussion followed on whether the out of town price should be \$15; consensus was to leave it at \$12.
- Preliminary layout looks like 300 cars would fit per show (assuming 4 people per car, that's a lot of people).
- Would like to start June 26 and have a show every Saturday for 9 or 10 weeks.
- Vinny Morelli has projection equipment and the committee wants to see it next week. He asked for the board's help in making that happen.
- There would be FM transmittal to the car stereo.
- There will be space in front of the screen if people want to use lawn chairs.
- Civic groups will run the actual parking and collection of the money. The committee is proposing to share a portion of the ticket sales with the civic groups.
- Movies will be PG or PG-13; probably don't want to run R rated films to keep it family friendly. We do need to appeal to a range of people – can't show "Bambi" every week. Perhaps show movies geared toward kids for 5 weeks and the other 5 weeks geared toward adults.
- The only studio they have a contract with is Universal Studios in L.A. Cost is 35% of gross ticket sales or \$250, whichever is greater.
- Probably need one policeman.
- Painting of the screen will cost about \$1,500; will need some seed money.
- Intend to have food similar to Music on the Green – perhaps four different vendors – and charge the vendors \$100 a night; vendors would set up somewhere near the pavilion.
- Striping of rows would be needed (Park Dept.), not car spaces, just lines for rows.
- Some trees in front of the screen will have to be removed.
- The first movie will be E.T.
- Vinny Morelli has donated his time the first year.

Discussion followed on whether or not the projector would cover most of the screen. If not, we will have to rent a projector and that will cost more money. We will have to review the projector soon to avoid any surprises down the road.

Commissioner Palmieri asked who would do the clean up? Mr. Riccio believed that the civic groups would clean up the loose trash and put it in the barrels. Parks Dept. staff could empty the barrels on their next regular work day. Hopefully this would not cause any problem with the union. Suggestion was made to ask Atty. Sciota for an opinion.

Mr. Riccio said that people would probably arrive an hour ahead of time. He spoke with Art Secondo about having an advertising hour; it would generate money for Chamber members. He is speaking to their economic development person this week to discuss it.

Apparently there is a Facebook page for the drive-in with 3,000 fans. There is a lot of interest. Discussion took place about having a rain date if weather is bad on Saturday. Sunday would be the rain date. Mr. Riccio will speak to the Town Clerk regarding announcing the movies on the TV and the website. The committee is also considering having some sort of entertainment for the kids during the advertising hour, like inflatable jumpers that would be turned off when the movie starts.

If everything was OK with the Park Board, Mr. Riccio wished to take it to the Council on Monday. No one had any objection.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, motion was made by Commissioner LaPorte to adjourn the meeting, at 7:40 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Palmieri. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Berardinelli  
Recording Secretary