

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
Thursday, June 3, 2010
Minutes (Corrected)

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.
Absent/Excused: Vice Chairman Megan O. Maruzo

MINUTES:

Commissioner LaPorte made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Palmieri, to accept the Minutes of the May 5, 2010 meeting as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

VISITORS: None

COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS:

1. Letter from Suburban Sport. Mr. Masci said Suburban Sport wants to bring a container to Crescent Lake to store the kayaks so they don't have to be transported every weekend. Town Attorney Mark Sciota said we would need a letter stating that the town would have no responsibility and would be held harmless from any issue arising from the container. This is that letter. Mark reviewed the letter and said it was OK.

DIRECTOR OF RECREATION REPORT:

Mr. Masci reported that trips are going well. The trip to Ellis Island is full. He will have to start making out Munis requisitions for all trips July through December; then in January he would do the same thing for the January to June trips. Kayak rentals were not too good last weekend.

Drive-in committee. Mr. Masci said we would be taking care of the marquee. Dave Lapreay commented that the letters don't fit too well in the slots on the new sign. Plus, we probably don't have enough letters to put everything on both sides. An email from Councilwoman Dawn Miceli indicated that she would want the sign to show who is sponsoring the show, name of movie, etc. Sign Pro installed the sign. They would probably know where to get letters. Dave Lapreay said he would make the call. Mr. Masci said nine community groups will be handling the collection of money, parking, vendors, etc. Discussion followed on whether everything would be ready for the first movie showing on June 26. The condition of the field was one consideration. Also, traffic control needs to be finalized. There was discussion that entry would be from Meriden-Waterbury Rd. but people would not be able to exit there and would have to go through Recreation Park. The projectors planned to be used are being repaired in upstate New York. However, Commissioner LaPorte said he spoke with Mr. Morelli and he will get another projector for no charge to use on June 26; it is not a problem. The next committee meeting is Tuesday, June 8.

Mr. Masci received an email today regarding a possible Eagle Scout project involving the Rails to Trails. The idea was to have road signs along the trail leading people to attractions in Southington. Discussion followed. It was felt that signs would bring vandalism. Mr. Masci wants to talk to Tony Tranquillo first and let him know the commission's thoughts. Also, Frank Vinci, zoning enforcement officer, needs to be consulted regarding any signs in town. Once more information is gathered, Mr. Masci will write back to the Life Scout; he may have to come up with a different idea for the eagle project.

Mr. Masci continued his report. He will be doing more Munis scanning for all the Organized Rec groups for their money on July 1st. He reminded commissioners that we are going back to 2008 amounts. Mr. Masci is working with October Productions for a Children's Concert Series that starts July 8. He will get

flyers to the schools. The concerts will be at Recreation Park. Since we cannot use South End School this year, he will try to get Derynoski School in case of inclement weather. Late registrations are coming in for all the programs. They are filling up pretty well. The Playground program has a few late sessions with openings. He is working with the BOE since they send special needs kids with a para so it is one-on-one and they pay for it. These would be in addition to the 100 in the programs. Soccer has a big registration coming up. Zumba has another session coming up; 35 people have already signed up.

Pools will open June 19. The hours are as follows: for Memorial, as discussed at a previous meeting, there will be swim lessons Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; then the pool would be open to the public from 1-8 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday could be 12 to 8. Recreation Park pool hours would be Monday-Friday 12 to 8; Sat. & Sun. 11 to 8.

Mr. Masci was approached about a possible tennis tournament with about 40 people. The request is for Panthorn Park on Saturday and Sunday, June 26 & 27, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The insurance certificate provided was reviewed by the Town Attorney. It only covers people who live at 59 Mark Drive, the home of the tournament planner, Art Rabiej. It is not good enough. Following further discussion, it was the consensus that if Mr. Rabiej provides a proper certificate of insurance with the appropriate wording and it is approved by the Town Attorney, it would be approved by the board.

Mr. Masci distributed copies of another email received today from Mr. Luis Gonzalez regarding use of Recreation Park for a scout event on Saturday, June 26. They would be launching rockets at a low altitude. The email indicated that he would also plan to have Police, Fire, ambulance and others also be there for safety lessons, demos, etc. Lively discussion followed regarding the day being the same day as the first drive-in movie, timing of traffic in and out of the park, etc. It was the consensus of the board to ask Mr. Gonzalez if he would consider having the scout event on Sunday rather than Saturday or use a different location. Mr. Masci will contact Mr. Gonzalez.

Mr. Masci drafted a letter to the Board of Finance to transfer \$25,000 to the Drive In Park Development (a new line item), taking half from Temporary/Seasonal Wages and half from Trips. There was discussion regarding whether this was the best use of the money or if it should be used to repair the rest rooms at Memorial Park. Commissioner LaPorte said that they were told to do a transfer for the drive-in when the funds were cut from the proposed budget. The BOF meeting is June 9 so if approved the money would be available for use this fiscal year. Expenses incurred and invoiced by June 30 can be paid in July. If the funds would not be used this year, we would need to request a carry forward of the funds to the new budget year.

Commissioner LaPorte questioned the report for the last middle school dance. There was a slight loss as only 178 students attended. However, Mr. Masci pointed out that he is down to 6 chaperones and one policeman. He spoke with the Town Manager about it. The department is recouping money in other programs to the tune of \$160,000 so in the scheme of things, it is not considered a loss. Mr. Masci plans to keep the last dance on June 11 as scheduled.

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

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Craig Pellegrini. Mr. Pellegrini had a few items to discuss. He first thanked whoever selected his car for a trophy at last night's Music on the Green car show. He was thrilled to receive it. He stated that if any manual labor cutting trees was needed to get the drive-in area ready, he was willing to help. Mr. Laprey replied that the work would be done this week so it is all set. Mr. Pellegrini stated that he is welding the concrete base by the movie screen to make it stronger. He will be starting his concession at Recreation Park on June 19 when the pool is open. He is leaning toward using his own truck instead of the concession building. Discussion followed regarding the use of the building and what condition it is in. Mr. Pellegrini will call the department during the week and Mr. Masci will open it for him to check it

out. Next Mr. Pellegrini asked if it would be possible to park his truck inside the fence near the sewer plant near the cameras. Mr. DeGioia would have to approve it but since the plant is locked up in the afternoon it is most likely not even possible to entertain the idea. Finally, Mr. Pellegrini inquired as to the possibility of having his permit fee waived since he would be serving the town. Since he is commercial, it was not likely. Mr. Masci commented that even town departments have to pay certain fees; it is very rare that a fee is waived.

ACTING SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS REPORT:

\$6,100

Corrected 7/8/10

Mr. Lapreay reported that he put in a transfer request to the Board of Finance today to move \$61,000 in the Parks Department part time line item. That item is in the red now. We are short staffed and have to use our part timers to get work done. The money will include paying the three caretakers at Crescent Lake.

Mr. Lapreay said the department is extremely busy and everyone is working very hard. In addition to the day-to-day work listed in the written report, Mr. Lapreay stated that Recreation Pool is up and running; everything is working fine. Memorial Pool will be scrubbed out on Monday; it will be ready on June 19th. The kayak beach area is built up again. Some lights at Recreation Park had to be fixed; Gamco took care of it. Tree cutting at the drive-in will be finished so the screen can be painted. Downtown lights on Center Street – about 30 have been strung so far. They are solar lights with the solar base at the bottom of the tree. They are OK. As time is freed up, they will continue with the rest of the trees.

Commissioner LaPorte said that the department will be three people short for the next year. If all these things have to be done, you have to bring part timers in. He believed it can't be denied because of the shortage of regulars. In response to a question, Mr. Lapreay replied that the department used to have 5 to 7 part timers, but last year and this year they only had 3. There was some discussion about the feasibility of hiring two part timers instead of a full time person. Mr. Lapreay believed it would not work since the part timers are limited in what they can do whereas full timers have more knowledge and experience with equipment, etc.

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

Commissioner LaPorte said that in light of the proposed changes in Parks Department reporting for the new fiscal year, no one was sure whether Mr. Lapreay would be attending the next meeting. He took the opportunity to thank David for the excellent job he has done as Acting Superintendent. The rest of the members agreed and made similar comments.

REPORT OF PARKS: Memorial Park. Chairman Fontana asked about the football field problem. Mr. Masci said they are getting together with lacrosse to extend the field under the high tension wires to make six fields. Chairman said they have no place to go; need to check DePaolo as there is more parking there than at Flanders School. There was some discussion about the proposed field extensions being close to the disc golf. It is close. Mr. Masci was asked to check with the disc golf group about the possibility of moving some of their holes if necessary. Panthorn Park. The 4th graders had their Nature Day; it went very well. Bonnie Sica did a good job. Rails to Trails. The bridge on Meriden-Waterbury Road will be covered for the trail extension.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Fireworks. Mr. Masci said there will be fireworks this year at the Apple Harvest Festival in the same place as last time (dog park). Berkshire Company will be doing it for \$9,600. Since it was under \$10,000 there was no requirement to go out for RFPs. More reporting will be done at the next meeting. Mr. Masci said he will speak to Jim Gura about the sprinklers at the dog park; will probably have to spray orange around all the fittings to prevent damage.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 8. Chairman Fontana said he will be away for the entire month. Other days might not work for other commissioners. There was some concern that it may be difficult to have quorum. The meeting will remain as scheduled; Mr. Masci will check everyone's availability as it gets closer.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Berardinelli
Recording Secretary