

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
Thursday, August 5, 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, Vice Chairman Megan O. Maruzo; Commissioners Michael Fasulo and Joanne D. Palmieri; Director of Recreation William J. Masci.

Absent/Excused: Commissioner Joseph LaPorte

MINUTES:

Commissioner Fasulo made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Palmieri, to accept the Minutes of the July 8, 2010 meeting as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

VISITORS:

1. Craig Pellegrini. Mr. Pellegrini asked if there were any rules about other ice cream trucks being in the park when he is there, i.e., does the person have a license to sell at Recreation Park? Mr. Masci said that food and ice cream vendors must get a permit from the Health Department. Once they have a permit, they are free to sell anywhere in town; however, he tells them that if they see someone else there, not to enter but to move on to another location. Also, to stay away from the Little League concession stand. There was some discussion about this practice. There is nothing illegal about two people selling ice cream in the same park, it is just a courtesy. This topic has come up before. At the Music on the Green, only one vendor for a particular item is allowed downtown but otherwise, there is no rule, as long as they keep moving.

Mr. Pellegrini said that Saturday night's drive-in movie crowd was like the first night and he did well. Commissioner Fasulo commented that just about every car had kids in it, so family-type movies are the way to go. Also the weather was good so that helped. In response to a question, the host for that night was the Mill Foundation which has a local contingent that helps children.

COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS:

1. Request from Ron Chase to utilize Derynoski field for Fall Lacrosse. Mr. Masci said this is the same thing that was done in the past by Ken Villari. He told Mr. Chase that he would need to get permission from Derynoski School. Some discussion followed on costs and payments to coaches. When speaking with Mr. Masci, Mr. Chase indicated that the cost to students would be less than the Villari program, and that a stipend would be paid to the coaches. There is no cost to the town; it is a camp. Because of the arrangement we have with the BOE regarding use of school fields, people must come to the Recreation Department first. It was the consensus of the board that Mr. Masci may tell Mr. Chase to pursue the project with Derynoski School.

2. Letter from Rose Ann Ames re Drive-In. This was a letter about the enjoyable time Mrs. Ames and her granddaughter had at the drive-in movie last Saturday. She commended Michael Riccio for his efforts in organizing the movies for wonderful family enjoyment.

3. Letter from Adam Vale da Serra of Cutting Edge re use of Drive-In. Mr. Vale da Serra is requesting use of the movie screen to show a snowboarding movie on October 16. Discussion followed on whether or not the hydroseeding would have begun in the area and also the fact that the Cutting Edge is not a Southington business. Also, when similar requests come in, such as for fund raising requests to be held at the drive-in, should they go immediately to the Drive-In Committee or first to the Recreation Department and/or Board?

Commissioner Fasulo stated that there is already a waiting list of local organizations who want to host a movie. Commissioners Fasulo, Maruzo and Palmieri believe all such requests should be referred to the Drive-In Committee. Committee member Dawn Miceli has been handling host organization requests. Proceeds from the movies are shared in thirds – one-third to the host group, one-third to the Town and one-third to the Committee for a “kitty”. Chairman Fontana interjected that he thinks any requests from out of town should come to the Board first to decide whether or not to refer to the committee.

After discussion, Mr. Masci was instructed to tell Mr. Vale da Serra that this year is not going to work because of the seeding. If he wishes to pursue it next year, it would be referred to the Drive-In Committee.

4. Email from Cub Scout Leader re Rocket Launch. This was an email from Luis Gonzalez, Den Leader of Pack 72. He is requesting use of the drive-in park for a model rocket launch on September 26 at 10:00 a.m. It would be in conjunction with demonstrations from Fire and Police departments, Meriden Ambulance Explorers and other Boy Scout troops. The board had seen this request previously. The board was not opposed to the request, but the group needs to be made aware that they have to assess the situation as it gets closer to the date (in relation to seeding that may be taking place). Mr. Masci will contact Mr. Gonzalez.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: None

DIRECTOR OF RECREATION REPORT:

Mr. Masci reported on trips. Saratoga trip on August 18 is pretty much sold. September 4th Red Sox game is sold out. Mr. Masci announced that the first concert of Music on the Green was rained out and has been rescheduled for Wednesday, September 1, so the board meeting will be held on the Thursday. Actually, the September 2nd date is already on the meeting schedule in the Clerk’s office.

Mr. Masci reported that the bubbler behind Rec B is not working. Several complaints have come into the office. It could be that during the construction which took place at the school the water line may have been cut to the bubbler. Steve Wlodkowski, Tony Tranquillo and Dave Lapreay will check it out and see what needs to be done to get the water flowing.

Mr. Masci spoke with John DeGioia. He is having a meeting with the electrician regarding a switch for the lights which could be used after the movies.

Munis requisitions for the 23 organized recreation groups have been entered and signed. The Defender Program which we had last year will be having something on the front lawn of Recreation Park on August 8 from 10 to 5. Youth Theater had three shows this year. They were excellent and very successful. The town received \$8,000 from the ticket sales. Chairman Fontana said we have a great theater program with very talented kids performing but the speaker system is terrible and there are not enough mikes for the performers. It is a disgrace for the performers and the audience. Suggestion was made to use some of the ticket proceeds to put towards a quality sound system. Mr. Masci said he received a bill for almost \$4,000 for the sound equipment, and it is not very good. The board agreed the money would be better spent on a new system that we would then own. There was some discussion of where else the money could come from. Chairman mentioned that he is booking the Marine Corps Marching Band for next June. Perhaps it could be a fundraiser if we advertise what the money is going for. He will speak to Jeff Shaw about it. In response to a question, Mr. Masci said the \$4,000 comes out of the department budget as a “program subsidy”.

Softball is concluding this week – men’s and women’s. Then we will go into Fall Ball. We only allow 12 teams since only one field at Panthorn is used and also the time element.

Mr. Masci stated that there is a swimming class on Monday, September 6, but asked if the weather is good, can we extend the pool opening to September 11-12? There is enough money to pay the lifeguards and the pools have been heavily used this summer. The board agreed to keep the pool open only Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Mr. Masci reported that there have been good crowds at the Kids Series on Tuesday evenings at Recreation Park. We had some very good performers. Kayak rentals at Crescent Lake have finally started up; Keith found someone to help. Mr. Masci has to speak with them about the signing of the waiver. Commissioner Fasulo asked if he was aware of our request for a report within 30 days after the season ends. Mr. Masci said he is aware of it. Trails at Crescent Lake are getting thick. He will talk to Steve Wlodkowski about it and see if some trimming can be done.

Commissioner Fasulo asked if there had been any discussion of having a representative of the Parks Department attend these meetings. He still believes it would be beneficial to hear about the parks. Mr. Masci commented on the revised agenda format. Any commissioner or Mr. Masci can comment on any parks issues, which can then be brought to the attention of Public Works. The status of the Parks position is still pending. When the Town Attorney returns next week, Mr. Masci will ask about it.

Vendors at the drive-in movies are all caught up as to their payments. We are now charging according to the number of cars in attendance as approved at the last meeting. Mr. Masci commented that people really seem to be enjoying themselves. Mr. Masci is waiting to get the school calendars which are out to print right now. Then he can start programming. Commissioner Maruzo thanked Mr. Masci for setting up the sign-out procedure for the playground program which she suggested last year. It has worked out very well.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Dog Park. Has been quiet. One person wants the grass cut once a week. That will not happen.
2. Crescent Lake. Already discussed.
3. Drive-In Movie Committee. Already discussed.
4. Rails to Trails. Tony Tranquillo will get more information on progress of the extension which will be reported to the board. It is coming along. Comments were made on progress that has been seen.
5. Jaycee Park. Nothing has been heard recently; the police must be handling it.

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, motion was made by Commissioner Palmieri to adjourn the meeting, at 7:15 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Maruzo. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Berardinelli
Recording Secretary