

**MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2007**

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman LaPorte called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Chairman Joseph LaPorte, Vice Chairman David Kanute, Commissioners Michael Fasulo, John Fontana and Frank Galante; Director of Recreation William J. Masci and Superintendent of Parks Richard L. Egidio, Sr.

MINUTES:

Motion was made by Commissioner Fasulo, seconded by Commissioner Kanute, to accept the minutes of the May 2, 2007 meeting as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

VISITORS:

1. Marian Tiadora re Farmer's Market. Ms. Tiadora reported that after she met with this board, she did attend a Parking Authority meeting. Parking Authority said OK and told her to check with the Health Department. Since no food will be prepared or sold at the farmer's market, no permit was necessary. Then Ms. Tiadora was directed to Frank Vinci, zoning enforcement officer, who gave her a page out of one of the Planning & Zoning books. It states that she must go to the ZBA and pay \$250. Discussion followed regarding who is actually sponsoring the farmer's market. Ms. Tiadora said she is doing it on behalf of the Plantsville Preservation Society, but because they are just starting up and going through their legal and permit process, she was putting her own name on the application. Question arose as to whether the Preservation Society or the Town would be the appropriate sponsor. She noted that the society does not have the funds yet to pay the \$250 fee. Ms. Tiadora has a list of farmers/vendors but has not come up with any "booth fee" as yet.

It was suggested that the matter be brought to the attention of Atty. Sciota. Mr. Masci would make an appointment for Ms. Tiadora to meet with Mark Sciota and Bill Masci so that Ms. Tiadora would know how to proceed. Commissioner Galante suggested she get something in writing from the Preservation Society authorizing her to coordinate this event. Ms. Tiadora said if all goes well, the market would not begin until at least the middle of July or maybe even August.

2. Stuart Estra re Fireworks Celebration. The board congratulated Stuart on a great job last Saturday (Trails Day). Mr. Estra distributed a list of duties for the fireworks celebration to take place on June 30 (rain date July 1). He went through the list with Mr. Egidio, asking for help on June 29 to pick up some items such as temporary fencing and tents. He will have Superior deliver the generator needed for the main stage. Mr. Estra would coordinate the tasks with Mr. Egidio. Mr. Estra reported that he met with the security group regarding maintaining the integrity of the fire zone. He needs to meet with Capt. Palmieri about shuttle bus drop-off locations, etc. He asked if someone from the board or the department could go with him for that meeting. In response to a question regarding cost of the event, Mr. Estra stated that the fireworks alone cost \$15,000 for a 30-minute show; the entire event will be about \$50,000. Most of the money has been raised. Ticket sales will help. The Gridiron Club will receive 50% of the admission. In return they are providing assistance. Commissioners believed they should help sell tickets. Mr. Estra presented the fireworks contract for signature; Chairman and Vice Chairman signed it. He did receive a certificate of insurance for \$3 million as requested by Atty. Sciota.

DIRECTOR OF RECREATION REPORT:

Mr. Masci reported that the playground programs are all set. Youth Theater is still registering but they have enough for all three: Spotlights, Footlights and Fiddler on the Roof. They will be held at DePaolo and Kennedy middle schools because the high school is undergoing renovations. Commissioners would like to at least have the shows take place at the high school. Mr. Masci will look into it. Lifeguards are all set with certifications. Pools will open June 22. Crescent Lake kayaking lessons will be held on Tuesday, June 12. There were 10 people on June 5th and 11 are signed up for June 12. Kayak rentals start this Saturday, June 9. Rentals are \$12 for a single (Town gets \$1 back) and \$20 for a double (Town gets \$2 back). Slamma Jamma is all set. Bob Ruderman is seriously ill but his wife and daughter are running the program. Mr. Masci and Mr. Egidio are helping as much as they can as well. Mr. Masci stated that we are still having some trouble at the Dog Park with children under 12; he had to call the police at one point. Music on the Green is having great crowds; it is going very well. He is making up a flyer for next week when there will be no vendors because of the parking lot paving. He will distribute the flyers to area restaurants. The trailers were moved; it will be two weeks before they can be moved back to the parking lot. Softball has had a lot of rainouts. Mr. Masci spoke with the managers who are to check for open slots for makeups. He gave them until the middle of June; otherwise he will reschedule everyone and send them a new lineup. Meetings with the Town Manager are going very well for Mr. Masci and Mr. Egidio. He believes the manager is very aware of all the work they do and is very appreciative.

Motion made by Commissioner Fontana, seconded by Commissioner Galante, to accept the report of the Director of Recreation. Motion carried unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS REPORT:

Mr. Egidio reviewed his written report and had a couple of additions. He received a report today from a representative of Tilcon with an estimate to mill up the tennis courts and basketball courts at Panthorn Park. It is about \$74,000 plus about \$8,500 for fencing and new nets, etc. This is for 4 tennis courts and 2 basketball courts. Now he has the work itemized so that he can go out to bid next year. Mr. Egidio noted that he removed two of the nets from the tennis courts because they were too dangerous. Mr. Egidio commented on item 30 on his report. Two picnic tables were vandalized at Crescent Lake and were removed; they were pretty old. With the new budget he will try to put two or three tables in there. Regarding item 15, an electrical breaker at the water fountain on Riccio Way was damaged. Mr. Egidio told Mr. Riccio about it and will inquire if any Renaissance funds are available to repair it – approximately \$1,800 is needed. It was a very busy month.

Commissioner Kanute said he needed somewhere to store wrestling mats for the summer. Mr. Egidio and Mr. Masci are looking for a place, possibly the warming shed at Recreation Park. The mats would be moved out before the November event at the park so that might work.

Mr. Egidio stated that, at the request of the Council, the voids at the Community Pool area (Recreation Park) would be taken care of by a painting company. The umbrella won't clean well; Mr. Egidio will ask the other pool people for suggestions. Commissioner Kanute believed a coat of Gelco may do the trick. At the Memorial Park pool, new handicap partitions and other work will be completed before the pools open. Mr. Masci said he has submitted the information for the plaque to name the pool in honor of Bill DePaolo. The dedication will take place on Tuesday, July 10, at 6 p.m. The board will receive invitations.

Motion made by Commissioner Galante, seconded by Commissioner Kanute, to accept the report of the Superintendent of Parks. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS:

1. Information on Farmer's Market. Letter and information from Marion Tiadora for the proposed market.
2. Letter from American Legion. This was a thank you note for placing flags in various locations in time for the Memorial Day ceremonies. There was no discussion on the letter.
3. Letter from SHS Powder Puff Football. Mr. Masci distributed a letter received today requesting the use of the Recreation Park football field for practice on June 16 from 4 to 9 p.m. They will need the lights. Ron Newman has indicated he would take care of the lights for them. No one else is using the field. Motion was made by Commissioner Fasulo, seconded by Commissioner Kanute, to allow the use of the Recreation Park football field on June 16, 2007 as requested by the SHS Powder Puff Football group. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT OF PARKS: There were no specific reports.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Dog Park. Mr. Egidio requested approval of the board to work with dog park president Jim Gura to try to get a construction vendor to donate a piece of equipment. Mr. Egidio has funds to pay for processed stone to fix that lot. He would ask the engineering department to lay out some grades. Motion made by Commissioner Kanute, seconded by Commissioner Fontana, to grant permission to Mr. Egidio as discussed. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Budget/Synthetic Turf-SHS. Commissioner Fontana gave a brief update on the status of funding. Chairman said that Commissioner Fontana is working very hard on this project.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Rails to Trails. Chairman said the Council wants to extend the trail towards Cheshire and asked unofficially if the Park Board would support it. The design money (\$250,000) has already been given to the town. It would take another \$2 million to complete Phase 2, with the majority being Federal money. They are interested in expediting it. The board does not have any policy or statement on it. If they can secure funding, fine. Chairman said the Commissioners can give their individual support if they want to.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, motion was made by Commissioner Fontana, seconded by Commissioner Fasulo, to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Berardinelli
Recording Secretary

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 12, 2007