

**MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman John Fontana called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Chairman John Fontana, Vice Chairman Megan O. Maruzo(arrived 6:05 p.m.), Commissioners David Kanute, Joseph LaPorte and Joanne D. Palmieri, Director of Recreation William J. Masci and Superintendent of Parks Richard L. Egidio, Sr.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Kanute made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Palmieri, to accept the Minutes of the May 7, 2008 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

VISITORS:

1. Lisa Crofton re YMCA Summer Program. Mrs. Crofton spoke to the board about a new weekly summer program called "Confidence Journeys" designed for kids entering grades 4 through 10. The program was originally planned to be held at the YMCA but it was discovered very late that they would have had to apply to have camp licensing to do it, and there was not enough time. Now they are requesting support from the Park Board to have the program be under the Parks & Recreation Department. The program has already received approval from Dr. Erardi to hold the classes at the high school. Mrs. Crofton stated that the program is designed to have life changing experiences and unique opportunities to help students to navigate successfully through those times of their lives. Some of these programs have been done in conjunction with the Youth Services Department in the past six months but they were limited in time and space. These programs would be more concentrated in two-week sessions. The first week would be confidence building and the second week would work on leadership skills. Cost would be \$150 per weekly session. Mrs. Crofton is hoping to attract 24-30 students in each age group. She is seeking help with advertising. She did mention that she had someone who would be willing to do the flyers.

Mr. Masci said he spoke with the Finance Director about the proposed program. Due to the timing, it is too late to get this in as a line item in the budget. Even though it is a reimbursable program, you still need a line item for it. Commissioner Palmieri suggested doing a letter to the Board of Finance requesting the creation of a new line item. Mr. Masci will contact the BOF Chairman to discuss it and try to expedite the request. The next BOF meeting is June 18. He asked Mrs. Crofton to come up with a proposed budget, how many people would staff it, etc. Roughly it would be \$2,000 per week for salaries and expenses times six weeks, or \$12,000. Commissioner LaPorte asked if there would be any cost to the town. There should be none. A minimum number of students would have to be met before holding a class; if not enough, they might have to combine the two sessions. However, Mrs. Crofton did not believe there would be any problem getting enough registrants. Mr. Masci suggested that they put a program together next October in order to get it in the budget.

Commissioners believed it was a great concept. Mrs. Crofton noted that Stop & Shop is allowing them to have a table in the store near the bank to advertise the program. Mr. Egidio suggested that The Home Depot was looking for a project to get involved in. Commissioner Palmieri also said that Wal-Mart might be another avenue to seek support from. The program could be put on the town's Channel 14 also. Since it would be a Parks & Rec program, any monies paid would have to come to the town. The Commissioners thanked Mrs. Crofton for her

information and wished her good luck with the project. She then left the meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS:

1. NFL Youth Day from Richard Koczera. This was a notice of a free event at Rentschler Field on Saturday, June 28th. Chairman Fontana said he gave it to Rich Kvietkus. It is taken care of and does not need to be discussed.
2. “Ahead of the Curve” summer program. This is the program discussed with Lisa Crofton.
3. Letter to Town Council re drive-in property. This is a copy of the letter sent by the Park Board requesting when the property would be turned over to the Parks and Recreation Department.
4. Notice re cancellation of hot dog cart at Memorial Park. Mr. Masci reported that in a phone conversation with Bryan Meccariello he was informed that Garrett Meccariello would no longer have a hot dog cart at Memorial Park.
5. Letter from Caroline McCarthy re hot dog truck at Memorial Park. Ms. McCarthy is looking for permission to sell hot dogs at Memorial Park during the summer and when the concession stands are not open. She plans to purchase the truck only after the board grants permission. Discussion followed on the request. Mr. Egidio felt it was not a good idea because of the potential litter problem. He feels that food and drink may be brought into the pool area, and that should not be encouraged. Suggestions were made that the vendor would be made responsible for any trash created and that permission could be granted for a one-year period. It would be discussed further under New Business.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: None.

DIRECTOR OF RECREATION REPORT:

Mr. Masci reported that he has a trip going this Saturday to the Bronx Zoo; it is a 3-town combination. The June 22 trip to see the Red Sox is sold out. He spoke with a gentleman in Columbia about the kids series; the dates are set. He will have flyers made up. All events will be held at Recreation Park rather than going from place to place. The series will run from 6-8 p.m. rather than 5:30-7:30 p.m. to allow parents more time to get home from work, etc. Mr. Masci also secured South End School in case of rain. Crescent Lake kayak rentals are doing very well. Commissioner Kanute noted that on Saturday night two cars were shut in when he locked up. One had a Florida license plate. They were gone Sunday morning on opening. Discussion followed on how they might have gotten out. This has happened on at least 3 occasions. He believed someone with a key must be letting them out, unless they have found another way out. Mr. Egidio said the cameras are ready to be powered up; then we will see how they are getting out. Mr. Masci continued that the kayaks are on a rack, and the owner will try leaving the rack there with a canvas covering; we will see how it goes.

At this time Commissioner Maruzo joined the meeting.

Apple Harvest entertainment is almost all booked. Coca Cola got the bid for the beverages. Softball is going well. Mr. Masci is working well with Darren Prozzo for rescheduling for both men's and women's softball. Rails to Trails kick-off is Monday night, June 9, at 6 p.m. Garrett Meccariello will have his first pedicab ride. Kick-off is on Center Street at the Rails to Trails. The press is expected to be there. Nature Day was today. It went very well with a lot of 4th

graders. The Connecticut Agriculture Experimentation group refused to charge (they were offered \$200) since they do it as a service to the community. There were 12 vendors – it was very successful. Next year we will incorporate the 5th grade. There was one incident – a broken toilet which had to be fixed, so there was only one rest room for both boys and girls. A monitor was stationed there. The toilet would be fixed tomorrow. Registrations for Youth Theatre drew 72 registrants. Tennis has 150 registrants for the June 23 start date. Music on the Green. Some sponsors have not paid yet but they have been contacted.

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

SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS REPORT:

Mr. Egidio submitted his written report for the month. Cameras are mounted on the poles at Crescent Lake. The transformer had to be way from the pole. There is 80 ft. from one pole to the other so an underground conduit was placed. On June 17 they will run a line. By the end of June there should be power to the cameras.

In response to a question, Mr. Egidio said the tennis courts are locked. He has a contractor to put concrete until we do the permanent work in August or September. There is a basketball program starting the end of June. Mr. Masci noted that the town along with Jiggy and himself were served papers for the lawsuit from the woman who was injured at Panthorn Park. Mr. Masci spoke with Mark Sciota who said it is just a formality. The insurance company will handle it. Mr. Egidio continued his report, stating that decking is done at Memorial Pool. It will open right on time. There is minor work to do at Recreation Park community pool, but he is hopeful that it, too, will open on time. Mr. Egidio commented that the Recreation parking lot has been milled and graded. He didn't have enough money to pave it over but it is graded and rolled and can be used as a base. Commissioner Maruzo stated that the parking lot at the Dog Park has a lot of pot holes. Mr. Egidio responded that it will be fixed with screening. Because it is a flood plain it cannot be paved.

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

REPORT OF PARKS: Dog Park. The president called today to say that another pole is set. Will put one light toward the parking lot and a safety light.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Drive-in Theatre. Mr. Egidio saw the superintendent from Nickerson today. They will be moving a lot of the fill. We will still be able to get some of the noncontaminated fill. Concession stand doors had to be nailed back up. Mr. Egidio is keeping an eye on it. He believes the Council is waiting for us to get the grant.
2. Crescent Lake Camera. Already discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Summer Program. Motion made by Commissioner Kanute that Mr. Masci investigate the possibility of the Park Board sponsoring a new summer program, "Confidence Journeys" as presented by Lisa Crofton. Seconded by Commissioner Palmieri. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Hot Dog Truck at Memorial. Commissioner Kanute made a motion to write a letter to Ms. McCarthy telling her that the board would support her for one year with the stipulation that she will take care of the trash, and make it clear that it is guaranteed only for one year. Insurance

and other normal permits, etc. are required. The truck is to be located in the area of Memorial Park Pool and is not to interfere with the concession stand. Motion seconded by Commissioner Palmieri. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Budget for SVMFL. Mr. Newman of SVMFL raised a question about the amounts given to each of the leagues. The amounts are the same but his league is much larger than the other. He inquired if this could be changed to allow his league to receive a bit more. Commissioner LaPorte stated that it has always been an equal amount. Chairman Fontana said that years ago it was to get the league started and then the leagues were on their own. It was never meant to continue year after year. Mr. Newman said they have a fund raiser in the planning stages and will do their best to accommodate the kids.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, motion was made by Commissioner Kanute, seconded by Commissioner Palmieri, to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Berardinelli
Recording Secretary