

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
Wednesday, November 2, 2011

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman John Fontana called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Parks and Recreation office of Town Hall, 75 Main Street, Southington, CT.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Chairman John Fontana; Vice Chairman Michael Fasulo, Commissioners David Kanute, Joseph LaPorte and Joanne D. Palmieri; Director of Recreation David A. Laprey and Assistant Superintendent of Parks Michael Manware.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Kanute made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Fasulo, to accept the Minutes of the October 5, 2011 as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

VISITORS:

1. Bob Borkowski – Northern Baseball. Mr. Borkowski introduced himself as the new president of the Northern Little League. He spoke to the board about the need for lights at the Little League field at Memorial Park and was checking on the correct procedure to get approval. He is getting quotes and they have funding. He is working with Pete Romano who has knowledge of these things. Musco Lighting gave a quote but they are expensive. There was some discussion of the best placement of the lights. Mr. Borkowski did say that there are some trees that will be affected; they would need to be trimmed back.

Mr. Borkowski also said that they have been renting the aluminum shed on the right field line, paying about \$90 a month. They would like to build a shed there or in another location for equipment. He will bring in a sketch of the proposed lighting for the board's review. Chairman Fontana indicated that he would like to meet with the lighting people when he makes an appointment. Once the board approves the request, it will have to go to Planning & Zoning. Mr. Laprey also stated that all necessary permits must be obtained.

Mr. Borkowski added that another thing they were considering is getting a quote for Mazzarelli Field, but that is probably a big issue. Another thing on the back burner is another diamond, but there is most likely not enough room for one. The league has a meeting on Monday. He will come back with further information.

2. Jim Sarantides – Girl's Softball. Did not attend.

COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS: None

DIRECTOR OF RECREATION REPORT:

Mr. Laprey had his written report in the packet. The last middle school dance had 271 kids. He believed the YMCA had a program that night, but this is the approximate amount we have had for the dances last year. Programs are going good. We are getting the winter dates for the schools. Registration is taking place now for youth basketball, soccer and wrestling. Halloween in the Village did take place in the rain and snow; they had about 30 people. Santa in the Park is ready to go on November 27, the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Downtown lighting of the Green is scheduled for Friday, December 2; however, we are not sure if the downtown merchants will be doing it. Mr. Laprey spoke with Art Secondo who said they don't have anyone to lead the project. He will get back to Dave.

Mr. Lapreay is sending a letter out to all the Organized Recreation leagues requesting their financial information. This is something requested by the Town Manager for the Board of Finance. A sample letter was in the packet for the board to review and comment on before it goes out. There was some discussion about how the information would be received and if there was a particular format for people to use so that it would be easier to review. In response to a request, Commissioner Fasulo said he would prepare a sample form for the leagues to use that Dave could include with the letter so that the responses could be consistent. Everyone reiterated that they did not want to see just “totals” of revenue and expenses but where the funding came from and what it was used for. Commissioner Kanute commented that while the leagues do bring in money, they spend it on improvements at the parks. Everyone agreed that it will be good to look at the reports.

Mr. Lapreay said that Mr. Pierson still did not get back to him with the information requested regarding the youth soccer. Commissioner Kanute said that he spoke with some people who are still involved in the program and was told that whenever someone left, the responsibilities were taken over by the Swansons rather than given to someone else. Chairman Fontana said that when we hear back from Mr. Pierson, we will schedule a meeting. Comments were made that the skill level of current players has gone down; perhaps we need to have clinics.

Mr. Lapreay said that fall softball is on the back burner; there is only a week or two left. It is getting cold and we may just cancel the rest of the year. A decision will be made by the end of the week. In response to a question about how much money has been given back to the General Fund this year, Mr. Lapreay responded that since July 1 we have turned in about \$60,000.

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

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS REPORT:

Mr. Manware reviewed his written report. Bench plaques were installed on the linear trail and the town green. He addressed surface rooting at Recreation Park. The roots messed up a leaf machine. The trailer was brought back to the garage at Panthorn for the winter. He stored about 30 cots for the Health Department; he did not believe they were needed for the shelter. Leaf program was started but had to stop due to the storm.

Mr. Manware spoke of some concerns. The building at Memorial pool has some major issues with the structure, drainage system and safety. Lighting inside the building is not good. Water builds up on the floor and you can't get to the electrical box without stepping in water – very bad situation. He is talking with Steve Wlodkowski about these issues. The roof needs about \$35,000 in repairs. Steve put it in the capital improvement plan to replace it, but he would like to get a whole new structure with upgraded rest rooms, etc. Mr. Manware also said the park is generally pretty dark. They are discussing possibly moving the playground area to a more visible spot for safety. A cover for the big pool is in the budget. If anyone is interested in taking a look at the building, he is happy to show them the areas of concern.

Commissioner LaPorte said he heard that the Highway Department is contemplating using the drive-in site for storing brush. Mr. Manware was not aware of it. He will speak with Steve about it. Suggestion was made to see if we can use the old State Highway Garage site. Commissioner LaPorte also said that we should probably do some maintenance on the trailer. We had previously spoken about some rust spots underneath, flooring, etc. He would like to go over it before it gets too bad. It does get a lot of use. A plumber offered to show us how to shut down the bathrooms at the pavilion without blowing the lines. Mr. Manware is happy to meet with him. We could shut them down as soon as possible rather than waiting.

Commissioner LaPorte stated that Vinny Morelli is in need of a spotlight for the Wolcott Town Pageant

on Saturday night. There is one in the office that he could use as long as it is returned in the same condition. Vinny would be very cautious with it and no one had a problem letting him use it. Commissioner Kanute made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Fasulo, to give Vinny Morelli permission to use the spotlight for an event in Wolcott and that it would be returned in the same condition. Motion carried unanimously.

At the last meeting, Mr. Manware suggested that the new section of the linear trail not be cleared of snow this winter, allowing it to be used for winter activities such as cross country skiing and snowshoeing. The first section of the trail would be plowed as usual, however. No one had a problem with this. Motion made by Commissioner Kanute, seconded by Commissioner Palmieri to approve using the new section (Phase II) of the trail for winter activities. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Kanute made a motion to accept the report of the Assistant Superintendent of Parks, seconded by Commissioner Palmieri. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT ON PARKS: No specific reports.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Rails to Trails Phase II winter activities. Already discussed.
2. Schedule of meeting dates for 2012. The proposed schedule was in the packet. Motion made by Commissioner Kanute, seconded by Commissioner Fasulo, to accept the schedule for 2012 as proposed and to file it with the Town Clerk. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Kanute, seconded by Commissioner Palmieri and carried unanimously at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Berardinelli
Recording Secretary

DAVID A. LAPREAY
Director of Recreation

MICHAEL S. MANWARE
Assistant Superintendent of Parks

JULIA BERARDINELLI
Office Assistant



COMMISSIONERS:
JOHN FONTANA
Chairman

MICHAEL FASULO
Vice Chairman

Town of Southington

"City of Progress"
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DAVID KANUTE
JOSEPH LAPORTE
JOANNE PALMIERI

BOARD OF PARKS COMMISSIONERS 2012 Approved Meeting Schedule

November 3, 2011

The Southington Board of Parks Commissioners will meet in the Parks & Recreation Office at Town Hall on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM, with the exception of June, July, August & September due to the "Music on the Green" concert series.

Wednesday, January 4

Wednesday, February 1

Wednesday, March 7

Wednesday, April 4

Wednesday, May 2

Thursday, June 7

No Meeting in July

Thursday, August 2

Thursday, September 6

Wednesday, October 3

Wednesday, November 7

Wednesday, December 5

Notification will be given regarding any unforeseen changes in this schedule.

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Lapreay
Director of Recreation