

**MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman John Fontana called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Chairman John Fontana, Vice Chairman Megan O. Maruzo (arrived where noted) 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 LaPorte made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Palmieri to accept the Minutes of the November 5, 2008 meeting as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATION AND REPORTS:

1. Email from Rebecca Stevens re: Radio City
Complimentary comment on the trip to Radio City seating.

2. Email from J. Kozlowski re: Dog Park and
3. Email from J. Kozlowski re: email response
Communication regarding the Residents Only rule for the Dog Park and notification of a plaque erected for a Cheshire resident who did a lot for the dog park.

Mr. Masci pointed out the placing of the plaque was in violation of the Parks Department rules regarding hanging anything in the park without first coming to this Board for permission. Discussion followed regarding the issue. Mr. Masci said that he would draft a letter for Mr. Fontana to review and then send it to the resident.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: None to report.

REPORT: DIRECTOR OF RECREATION

Mr. Masci gave a report of the trips lined up as well as what is projected for the spring. He is exploring doing some trips to Yankee Stadium as well as Boston. Crescent Lake Policy for the winter was discussed. It was decided to just open and close, January, February and March. A lot of ice fishing goes on so it was decided not to just shut down. Mr. Masci indicated he had a lot of calls about the Rails to Trails and the policy will be the same as last year as far as snow clearing. Mr. Masci reported he

and Mr. Egidio will go for MUNIS training December 9th for the upcoming budget season.

(Mrs. Maruzo entered the meeting.)

Mr. Masci reported on the organized sports. Soccer on Monday and Friday at Hatton School. Everyone is satisfied. He indicated he spoke to Christian Academy about sharing facilities and they will get back to him. Kayaking up at Crescent Lake, we get \$1 per rental, and they coming up with a final figure and they'll present us with a check according to the number of registrations they had. The second session of bow hunting starts next week up at Crescent Lake and runs through December 31st. Mr. Masci reported at the Department Heads meeting we were reminded that for the next budget we need to hold the line and as far as this year's budget to go through the budget to see if there's any money we can give back by putting off an item budgeted for but not essential to do at this time. Mr. Masci said he would investigate the furniture line item. Basketball has started and it is going pretty well. We'll get a handle on the gym space once we get into it. Mr. Kanute made a motion to accept the Director of Recreation's report as presented. Mr. LaPorte seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

REPORT: DIRECTOR OF PARKS

Mr. Egidio went over his written report. Basically just regular maintenance that we are doing. We assisted the Community Services Department in their move and we assisted the Economic Development Department in their move. We helped with the baskets for Thanksgiving for Community Services. We had a lot of vandalism on the linear trail at the dog park location. We fixed it as best we could and we'll spruce it up in the spring. We're moving leaves. We had a labor issue and had about five meetings on it. Not wanting to go into details, it is on its way to being resolved and it is going to be okay. The contractor is storing some equipment and stuff at the Recreation Park in the front parking lot and in the old hockey rink. Most of it will be moved out by spring and Mr. Egidio said he did this help out the South End School project. I spoke to the contractor and maybe we can swap out any cost to the town to do some paving down there in exchange for allowing them to store their equipment. It looks like that will work out. The tennis courts are being paved today and the finish coat will be done tomorrow. Next week we'll do the fencing. It's moving along good. Mrs. Palmieri made a motion to approve the Director of Parks report as presented. MR. Kanute seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Mr. Fontana reported that starting in the spring, he and Mr. Egidio will take a ride through the parks to check on the jobs and see how everything is going.

Mr. Egidio reported that Mr. LaPorte is working with him on the open space parcels.

VISITORS:

Bob Freer, Bill Voelker, Ron Klein and Bill Bruschi representing the Southington Southern Little League presented to the Commission a plan they have for upgrading the concession stand. While not looking for funding, they were looking for the Commission's approval to move forward with their renovations. They explained to the Commission all of the improvements they have done to date which total approximately a quarter of a million dollars. Mr. Kanute made a motion to give them permission to go ahead with the project as long as they get the necessary town permits and approvals necessary. Mrs. Palmieri seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Dog Park: Jim Gura asked for some hay which he was given to put in the front where it gets muddy. Mr. Egidio said that maybe the best thing to do there is to put some crushed stone in the entrance area there where it gets wet and muddy. It is coming along pretty good. People were getting into the planted area, too, and they were told to leave that area. Maybe after the holiday season we can put some processed stone in the parking area, too.

2. Drive In Theater Property: Mr. Egidio reported it is coming along. They have the blacktop in and the street lighting. There is going to be lights all of the way in there. The lights in front of the screen will be eliminated, per the Town Engineer, in case we want to use the screen. There are plenty of lights nonetheless. The plastic covering the contaminated piles are still there. Mr. Egidio reported he had not heard back from the state regarding grant money even though he had contacted them by letter and by phone. He had pursued the grant with the Connecticut Historical Society in regards to refurbishing the drive in. He will continue to follow up with the state. Mr. Kanute explained about three federal grants that might be available. He would do the legwork on that with the Chairman's permission.

3. Trail at Panthorn Park: Mr. Masci commented that Bonnie Sica came in with a pamphlet for the trails at Panthorn Park and open space. It would cost about \$3,000 to print up the pamphlets and we told her we didn't have the money. Peter Picone would be approached about grant money for that.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Fontana explained the new policies and procedures regarding overtime from the Town Council. Much discussion, questions and answers amongst the commissioners was had. Each commissioner was provided with a handout detailing the new policies and procedures to be in effect.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion was made by Mrs. Palmieri and second by Mr. Kanute to go into Executive discussion to discuss personnel matters. Motion carried unanimously on a voice vote. The regular meeting was adjourned at 7:35 o'clock, p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gianoni
Recording Secretary