

Community Services & Recreation

DRAFT MINUTES/UNAPPROVED

Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting---January 22, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Frank Montagna at 6:30 p.m.

Attendance: Frank Montagna, Al Centone, Joe Cappucci, Mary Lou Stamp, Susan Puzycki, Suzanne Lewis, Richard Wilson. First Selectman Janet McCarty (Guest). Also in attendance: Richard Branigan, Director of Public Works & Parks, Eileen Pettit, Acting Director of Community Services & Recreation. Dan Riccio (Secretary).

Election of Officers: Mr. Montagna welcomed Janet McCarty to the meeting. Ms. McCarty took nominations for President.

Mr. Cappucci nominated Mary Lou Stamp for President, seconded by Suzanne Lewis and approved by the board members unanimously.

Mr. Cappucci made a motion to elect Frank Montagna as Vice President, seconded by Mary Lou Stamp and approved by the board members unanimously.

Mr. Cappucci made a motion to elect Al Centone as Secretary, seconded by Mary Lou Stamp and approved by the board members unanimously.

Acceptance of Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were read and a motion was made by Al Centone to accept as written, 2nd by Joe Cappucci. All were in favor.

Public Participation: Max Sinoway is seeking additional funds for the 2008 year. Present from Max Sinoway was Joe Aveni, Michael Peterson and Rich Wells. They requested an increase in funding from \$4,000.00 to \$6,000.00 . They service approximately 800 children. They are changing from metal bats to wooden bats. Rich Wells mentioned there were additional maintenance fees as well. The biggest program they service is T-Ball.

A recommendation was made by Mr. Branigan as to the funding commitments made by Max Sinoway. Frank Montagna made a motion to increase funds to \$6,000.00 dollars, seconded by Joe Cappucci. All were in favor.

Correspondence: None.

Director's Report - Parks:

Richard Branigan stated that the North Haven High School Construction Project is 90% completed. Problems remain with Varsity Baseball Field (drainage) which requires the closure until at least summer. It is unclear as to the availability for American Legions, etc. games. Brook Field is back in service and has been earmarked for Scooter League games of Max Sinoway. The multi-purpose field will be available for lacrosse this spring and the tennis courts will also be in service.

The recommendation has been made to the Education Department that barrier netting be installed at both Varsity Field and Brook Field and that the lighting at the varsity field be reviewed relative to possible complaints from neighboring properties.

A recommendation was made to use Montowese No. 4 for only league games due to continuing excessive amounts of wear and planned work schedule in late March and early April.

Bleachers/Press box Renovations-renovation of bleachers, including handicapped access via elevator is 95% complete and is now available for partial use.

North Haven Soccer Club Feasibility Study-reminder that the Milone and McBroom feasibility study for the Anthem site (soon to be Quinnipiac University Graduate Center) has been completed. Recreational opportunities at the 40 acre site may involve potential use of former "Rainbow Lake" and additional passive areas. Quinnipiac University has now closed on the property.

Montowese Park-preparation is underway for spring opening. By agreement with the league, no practices will be allowed prior to the start of the season. Department of Public Works crews completed some of the restoration work on the field and the league / Department of Public Works are exploring volunteer efforts to add to the improvements.

Columbus Day Parade-the parade committee has approached the Town with requests for two events: the parade on October 12th and a concert on the Town Green on Saturday, August 9th. Both events would require the use of the Showmobile and the request is to waive fees for the use of same.

Italian Festival-request for the use of the Town Green and the Showmobile for August 22nd and 23rd has been submitted. As in the past three years, the request is for a waiver of rental fees for the equipment. Town costs will be reimbursed for all Department of Public Works (police, fire, etc.) overtime.

Director's Report -Recreation:

The annual Tree Lighting Ceremony was held on Sunday, December 2, 2007. Hundreds of children and their parents enjoyed the festivities. Mark & Mary Minotti and students from Minotti Music entertained the crowd with a variety of Christmas Carols. The day culminated with the tree lighting. A special thanks to our co-sponsor McDonalds for providing juice, Mark and Mary Minotti for coordinating the entertainment, North Haven Knights of Columbus for providing hot chocolate and coffee, the North Haven High School Chorus for the caroling on the green and staff from Coldwell Banker Real Estate for volunteering their time.

Winter recreation and pool programs have begun and the brochures are available.

The youth basketball program is in full swing. Coach Art Leary has been well received by the participants and their parents. The numbers have increased this year.

Planning has begun for summer concerts, employment, playgrounds, day camp and sport camps. Details will be given as we get closer to June. The Concerts will begin on June 24th and end on August 5th for 7 weeks on Tuesdays 7:00 p.m.

Summer programs will run June 30th through August 1st-this may change with additional snow days.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Ms. Stamp, Chairman assumed direction of the meeting. Al Centone made a motion to waive the fee for both the Son's and Daughters of Italy Festival and The Columbus Day Parade. Seconded by Rich Wilson. All were in favor.

A motion was made by Suzanne Lewis to adjourn, seconded by Rich Wilson. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.