

Community Services and Recreation

DRAFT MINUTES/APPROVED

To: Parks & Recreation Commission Members

From: Gerardo Sorkin, Director

Re: Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting September 21, 2009

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Mary Lou Stamp at 7:01 p.m.

I. Attendance:

Commissioners Present: Al Centone, Joe Capucci, Mary Lou Stamp, Susan Puzycki, Suzanne Lewis, Richard Wilson

Commissioners Absent: Frank Montagna

Staff Present : Gerardo Sorkin, Director of Community Services and Recreation
Lynn Sadosky, Director of Public Works
Victor Palma, Superintendent of Public Works & Field Operations
Carla Pelliccio, Secretary

II. Acceptance of Minutes:

Suzanne Lewis made a motion to accept the March 16, 2009 minutes, seconded by Al Centone. Due to lack of quorum at the May 18, 2009 meeting, the meeting was not officially called to order, and therefore the minutes did not need approval.

III. Correspondence:

None to report.

IV. Director's Report:

Gerardo Sorkin, Director of Community Services and Recreation

Recreation:

This year we had a record number of participants in the summer programs. The playground programs were held at Clintonville, Montowese and Ridge Road schools. Each site averaged 100 children on a daily basis. The Day Camp program held at the Recreation Center accommodated 100 children for 5 weeks. The Little Rec'ers program hit the maximum number several weeks. Swim lessons were also well attended.

The "Music Under the Stars" Concert Series concluded on August 9, 2009. All concerts were well attended. An estimated 5000 people attended the Big Shot concert. A special thanks to all corporate sponsors for their continued support. Mr. Sorkin also thanked all volunteers, Recreation staff, and Public Works staff for a job well done.

The track lights are on the at the Mike Vancore field. Lights will be on Monday through Thursday evenings as weather permits, until Thanksgiving. An attendant monitors that proper foot attire is worn; no pets and all the other posted rules are adhered to. Mr. Sorkin thanked Mr. Centone for overseeing the track on these evenings.

Registration for fall recreation and pool programs is underway. Many programs have begun. *Fall 2009 Recreation Brochures* were distributed to all commissioners.

The annual Halloween Party is scheduled to take place on Friday, October 30, 2009 from 4:30-6:00pm. There will be face painting, refreshments, pictures with the Great Pumpkin and entertainment. McDonald's of Washington Ave. is again co-sponsoring this event. The commissioners are cordially invited to attend.

Update on the Pool: The pool reopened on August 31, 2009. During the annual shut down, a problem with tile and grout had been discovered. The pool remained closed for a short time in order for the pool to be re grouted and tiles replaced. Mr. Sorkin stated that these were necessary repairs and thus they incurred the investment of time and cost in order to avoid a larger issue in subsequent years. The pool is fully operational at this time.

Lynn Sadosky, Director of Public Works

Events:

- May 23, 2009: Memorial Day Parade and Cow Plop held on Parks and Recreation field on; A private birthday party was also held at Pines Park on this day.
- May 30, 2009. Opening Day for North Haven Girls Softball at Gateway Complex fields
- *Summer season baseball* included Max Sinoway, American Legion, Babe Ruth, North Haven Girls Softball through July 28, 2009; lacrosse and soccer clubs were also scheduled for summer games; the Recreation Department handled sign ups for July baseball camps.
- June 10, 2009: the North Haven High School held it's concert on the Town green
- June 13, 2009: Elks Club Flag Ceremony was held on the Town Green
- June 30 – August 11, 2009: Summer Concert Series were held Tuesday evenings on the Town Green; Some issues were noted with new vendor registrations; Based upon the influx requests, Ms. Sadosky is currently incorporating a piece that addresses new vendor event participation in the rules and regulations that she is currently developing. Rather than presenting competition to the many long standing event vendors, the suggestion made by Ms. Sadosky is that vendors must provide something that the current vendors are not already selling (i.e. pizza, fried dough).
- June-July 2009: *North Haven Youth Basketball*: Memorial basketball court was held in June in July on Sundays only for Grades 3 and 4
- August 8, 2009: A private party was held at Pine's Park
- August 12, 2009: the Senior Center held their annual summer picnic on the Town Green, which included food from the Big Green Pizza Truck, dancing and live music
- August 21-22, 2009: The Festival of Angels was held on the Town Green
- Proposed use of Town Green: Animal Haven's "Walk a Dogathon"
- Parks signage related to dogs in Town Parks - Ongoing

V. Old Business:

None.

VI. New Business:

Lynn Sadosky, Director of Public Works

Senior Center construction status: Ms. Sadosky has been meeting regularly with renovation contractor ConnStrux. The original date of completion was in the end of October, however the completion date has been extended out to the first week of November. During the renovations, the bocce ball courts had been moved to Carina Park; upon the reopening of the newly renovated center, the courts will reopen on premise.

Status of development of Draft Rules and Regulations for the use of Town Parks: The Department of Public Works has solicited nearby towns for copies of their rules and regulations and changes thereto and is currently preparing a Draft for review at the November 2009.

Ms. Stamp took the opportunity to comment on how well the Green looked during the summer months and complimented the two members of Public Works whom she noticed repeatedly working hard on the Green.

Ms. Stamp also asked Ms. Sadosky about the status of the high school fields. Ms. Sadosky responded that one of the baseball fields were open and the others are being rested. Regarding Vanacore Field, this field can be used for lacrosse and soccer, however there is a small window of opportunity for use since there are several groups using the fields. It would be a matter to coordinate when these fields are not being used.

North Haven Soccer Club Lease Request of Hansen Farm Park: Jonathan Bodwell, Town Engineer and Alan Fredricksen, Land Use Administrator met with members of North Haven Soccer in regard to a potential lease of a portion of Hansen Farm Park. Unfortunately, there are CT DEP and Federal Agricultural restrictions on the use of Hansen Farm Park, including "no golf course, no ball fields (which constitutes any sport with a ball)." An additional restriction discovered was that if NHSC decided to further develop the field with their own dollars, they would still need to have fields open to the public, which would not be feasible. It was also determined that parking would pose an issue, as the land could not be prepared for parking, and lights or any other structures would not be allowed. North Haven Soccer Club continues to search for another site at this time.

The track at Vanacore field. As stated in Mr. Sorkin's report, lights are on Monday through Thursday evenings through Thanksgiving, Mr. Centone monitoring the field during these evenings. Mr. Centone reported that dogs, bicycles have been on the track and that people do not appear to be aware of the rules. In addition, many parents leave their children at the field, leaving these children to run up and down the bleachers. Mr. Centone wanted to bring it to the attention of the Commissioners and present the question as to whether a solution exists to prohibiting this behavior (i.e. would chaining off the bleachers work?). A sign is posted on a lightpole and at the ticket booth at the entrance of the field, however Mr. Centone noted that either people are not aware of the rules, or they are simply not abiding by them. The question arose, although signs with the rules exist, how can the rules be enforced? In addition, Mr. Capucci brought up the issue of liability in the event that someone gets hurt either on the bleachers or on the field. Furthermore, the issue of the presence of dogs presents (unattended or not on leashes) presents a safety risk, in addition to the possibility of people not picking up after their dogs.

In order to address this, Mr. Palma stated that he will have a sign with rules posted at the entrance of the field. In addition, Ms. Sadosky mentioned that she will see if she can catch the town calendar before it goes to print in order to add the rules, as well as have the rules posted on the town website. Finally, Ms. Stamp stated that she will draft a letter to Chief DiCarlo in order to request increased police presence in order to ensure that the that the field is monitored and the rules are enforced.

Sports Leagues Rules of Conduct: Prior to scheduling the use of fields, all youth sports organizations will be asked to send to the Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission the policies and procedures related to the rules of conduct pertaining to that specific organization. Fields may not be scheduled unless the Commission has received a copy of the rules of conduct. The Commission will send a letter to all town leagues that currently use Town Fields to ensure that they are aware of the new procedure. Rules of conduct should address conduct of coaches and players, parents and expectators. The comission can provide technical assistance in developing guidelines. This request has arisen as a result of an incident that took place in late July during a North Haven Girls Softball game.

VII. Public Participation:

None.

VIII. Adjournment:

Ms. Stamp asked for a Motion to Adjourn. Motion made by Joseph Capucci, seconded by Rich Wilson. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

The next meeting will take place on Monday, November 16, 2009.