

Community Services and Recreation

DRAFT MINUTES/APPROVED

To: Parks & Recreation Commission Members

From: Gerardo Sorkin, Director

Re: Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting March 15, 2010

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Mary Lou Stamp at 6:55p.m.

I. Attendance:

Commissioners Present: Al Centone, Suzanne Lewis, Frank Montagna, Michael Pomichter, Mary Lou Stamp, Susan Puzycki.

Commissioners Absent: Joe Capucci.

Staff Present : Gerardo Sorkin, Director of Community Services and Recreation
Eileen Pettit, Assistant Director of Recreation
Victor Palma, Director of Field Operations, Public Works
Carla Pelliccio, Secretary

II. Acceptance of Minutes:

Frank Montagna made a motion to accept the January 19, 2010 minutes, seconded by Al Centone.

III. Correspondence:

Ms. Sadosky received a letter dated March 1, 2010 from Martha Vincent, President of the North Haven Fair Association, requesting use of the Showmobile from September 8th-13th for their 2010 fair. The event is scheduled to take place from September 9th-12th 2010.

A letter was received from Dominic Colavito, from Never Give Up Softball, requesting the use of Grover Wyman Field and Gateway softball field for the annual Never Give Up Softball tournament for Friday August 13, 2010 from 5-11pm, Saturday August 14, 2010 from 7am-11pm and Sunday, August 15, 2010 from 7pm to 11pm. Also requesting the same dates and times for the following week (8/20-8/22) in case of rain. They also requesting that any fees associated with the uses of the field be waived.

IV. Director's Report:

Gerardo Sorkin, Director of Community Services and Recreation

Spring registration has begun for both recreation and pool programs.

The Annual Easter Extravaganza will take place on Saturday, March 27, 2010 at the Recreation Center from 10:30-12:00 p.m. The indoor event included pictures with the Easter Bunny, face painting, top hat and bonnet contest, entertainment and refreshments provided by McDonald's. At the conclusion of the event, each child will receive a bag of chocolate eggs.

The 17th Annual Fishing Derby is scheduled for Saturday, May 1, 2010 at Sinoway Pond on Upper State Street. Once again, we expect to see over 300 children register for this event.

Planning for Music Under the Stars 2010 continues. The series will begin on Tuesday, June 29th and conclude on Tuesday, August 10, 2010. A great lineup has been put together. Copies of the Music Under the Stars flyers were distributed to all commissioners. Concerts to take place on Tuesday evenings.

Tuesday, June 29 – Vinnie Carr and the Party Band

Tuesday, July 6 – The Jumpers Orchestra

Tuesday, July 13 – Big Shot – Billy Joel Tribute

Tuesday, July 20 – Almost Famous

Tuesday, July 27 – Parrot Beach – Jimmy Buffett Tribute

Tuesday, August 3 – Rick Larrimore's Tribute to Rod Stewart

Tuesday, August 10 – The Classics

Pool hours are changing as of June 26th for the summer.

Hosting Special Olympics CT State games June 12 and 13 at the Walter J. Gawrych Community Pool. Eileen Pettit went on to provide further details about the program. Thirty-six athletes from North Haven will be participating in the games. Ten of these athletes will be competing in swimming. A potential 500+ athletes will be participating in this event. This is a great opportunity for the Town of North Haven. Currently looking at having parking at the High School and having shuttle service to and from the spectators. The athletes will be transported from Southern CT State University. Fire and Police Departments have also been made aware.

Victor Palma on behalf of Lynn Sadosky, Director of Public Works

Senior Center status –reconstruction completed and staff has relocated back to Center, which formally opened to the Public March 1st. During the winter months the Bocce courts were damaged and will need to be repaired prior to use.

Public Works is currently getting ready for the upcoming season by working on scheduling fields. With the emergence of the American Legion Junior League, they are once again running into the issue of shortage of fields. A meeting took place at the First Selectman's office with all the representatives of the programs or leagues to discuss this issue that Public Works was facing in order to ensure that everyone was on the same page.

Brook Field will be closed for usage for anyone other than the High School.

North Haven Soccer Club –season commences at Memorial and Rock Road fields on March 29, 2010.

North Haven Girls Softball – commences season at Gateway Fields on May 2, 2010.

North Haven Youth Football – commences season at gateway Field on August 1, 2010.

North Haven High School Football – commences season at Vanacore Field in September 2010.

North Haven Lacrosse Club –commences season on April 1, 2010. The Club was able to secure the North Haven Fairgrounds field again this year.

Max Sinoway Baseball –commences season on April 5, 2010. Public Works staff met with Max Sinoway Management on Friday, March 5 to discuss fencing repairs needed and proposed roofing repairs to the Club House.

Sinoway Pond – Public Works has replaced the railings on the Boy Scout Bridge which had been destroyed due to vandalism on October 31, 2009.

Draft Procedure – Public Works along with Commission members developed a draft procedure for Vendors who Sell Food, Beverages and Goods on Town-Owned Properties. This procedure will be discussed under Old Business.

V. Public Participation:

Brenda Howlett, Director for the North Haven Soccer Club, joined the meeting out of general interest as well as to see how and if monies can be spent on the soccer fields. Mr. Sorkin encouraged her to request an application for a Town Sports League Subsidy and have it returned for commission's review at the May 2010 meeting. Mrs. Howlett will have the Treasurer for the North Haven Soccer Club pick up this application and take those steps by May.

Brian Testa, resident of Maple Ave. and employee of Sweetheart Ice Cream of Hamden attended the meeting this evening. He previously submitted a letter to Ms. Sadosky expressing his interest in becoming a vendor to sell ice cream on the Town Green during the upcoming 2010 Summer Concert Series. He wanted to check in about the status of the vendor procedures. Ms. Stamp indicated that she will contact him once a final decision is made.

VI. Old Business:

Regarding Quinnipiac University's Physical Education Department requesting use of Sinoway's Pond for a 12-student fishing class: Correspondence was reported at the November 16, 2009 meeting regarding the request use of Sinoway's Pond for a 12-student fishing class. The 15-hour class will take place from April 9-11, 2010, with a combination of classroom and fishing time. According to the letter, students would be carefully monitored, behave appropriately and all fish would be released back into the pond. Students would have their own equipment, however they do not have fishing license.

Ms. Stamp contacted Ms. Wooster regarding the issue of fishing licensure as well as the need for the university to provide a certificate of liability insurance. Ms. Wooster indicated that students would be unable to provide fishing licenses nor the university would be able to provide a letter from the state waiving fishing licensure requirements. In the meantime, Ms. Stamp contacted the Bill Foreman from the DEP (Department of Environmental Protection). Ms. Wooster would simply need to provide a letter as well as certificate of insurance to the DEP and then the DEP would waive the fishing licensure requirement as the university class would fall under the “non-profit” umbrella.

Willing that the waiver could be provided, the commission voted to allow use of Sinoway's Pond (at the November 16, 2009 meeting). Suzanne Lewis had previously made a motion to accept the decision, seconded by Rich Wilson.

Review of the Draft policy for Procedure for Food, Beverage and Goods Businesses Conducted at Town-Sponsored Events. A request made to specifically add vendors to the Summer Concert Series on the North Haven Green was addressed. It was stated that the current vendors have the understanding that only one food product of a kind is to be sold and vendors are asked not to duplicate this. Mr. Centone commented that if we begin to add vendors who will duplicate food items, how do we turn away a third or fourth vendor? Ms. Stamp added that the Board could then limit the number of vendors to 2 vendors per food item. Ms. Stamp commented that currently there are a few of the more popular concerts that draw large crowds have long vendor lines. Mr. Montagna agreed that he has waited in line during the Billy Joel and more popular concerts, however, the vendors have had concerts that are poorly attended and have no lines.

If a second vendor per food item was added, it would be required that they attend all the concerts, rain or shine, and not just the popular ones. Discussion took place regarding where the 2nd vendors would possibly be located. Mr. Palma noted that there would need to be enough distance between vendors and the vendor who has the most seniority could be given preference as to location if the Commission made this policy of duplicate vendors. Mr. Pomichter asked who would determine if 20 feet, 50 feet, 100 feet etc. was considered to be adequate distance between vendors. Ms. Stamp asked Mr. Palma if a decision was made to have the duplicate vendors, would there be power available on the opposite end of the Town Green. Mr. Palma noted that there were limited areas to access power. The Showmobile and the portable toilets take up one side of the Town Green and that would not be usable for vendors. Ms. Pettit commented that the area where the classic cars are allowed to drive in and park would not be usable by vendors. Mr. Montagna noted that traffic control could very well be a problem, especially with children now being attracted to another area of the green that may be more traffic congested.

Currently the vendors are located in the area where the crosswalk is located and this is police controlled. By doubling the number of vendors to possibly 8, would there now be too many vendors for the size of the Town Green. Ms. Lewis noted that the current system seems to work for the majority of the concerts. Ms. Puzycki agreed that if the current vendor system works, does it need to be changed?

Discussion began regarding vendor prices and it was agreed that there has never been a problem with prices being too high, even with single vendors. It was also suggested to speak to current vendors each year about the long lines during the more popular concerts and ask if they can put on more staff during those busy times.

Discussion began regarding the fee for the concert series. Vendors should be charged the full \$200 and expected to attend all concerts. The commissioners discussed the loyalty of the current vendors who show up no matter which concert and, in some cases such as the rain this past year, vendors may lose money. Mr. Pomichter gave the example of Bill Gambardella of Joe's Ice Cream that has been with our town for many, many years. He stated that Mr. Gambardella has even donated the truck at times. Ms. Pettit noted that Mr. Gambardella has donated for the Town Halloween activities in the past.

Application date of June 1st was discussed. Mr. Pomichter noted that since the application date is no earlier than June 1st, with no cutoff date, this would actually give someone a chance to miss the first few concerts, if they choose, and still begin with a more well attended concert.

Discussion began regarding this date of the application process being too late as currently stated. The Commission agreed that if the date should be earlier and have a cutoff date. It was agreed that if one of the current vendors decided not to participate, there would not be enough time to find a replacement. It was agreed to start the process on May 15th with a cutoff date of June 1st.

A motion was made by Michael Pomichter to keep the current number of vendors and accept the draft with the following changes: Change the date of the application process to begin on May 15th and end on June 1st, set the price for the entire concert series to \$200 and include the wording in the last paragraph that "The town reserves the right to terminate any and all vendor approvals based on circumstances which are in the best interest of the Town." Motion was seconded by Al Centone and was accepted unanimously by the commission.

Regarding whether town ordinances exist that would apply towards the ability for other mobile vendors (i.e. ice cream vendors) to sell food at the town fields. Mr. Montagna was able to locate these Town ordinances on the Town website. Copies of these ordinances were provided to all commissioners. They can be found under *Government* → *Ordinances* → *Chapter 152 (Parks and Playgrounds)* → *Ordinance 152-1 Prohibited Activities and Conduct*.

Ms. Stamp will also bring these ordinances to Ms. Sadosky's attention upon her return as many of these ordinances may address the items in the Rules and Regulations.

VII. New Business:

Request for use of the Showmobile for the North Haven Fair: (refer to correspondence). Al Centone made a motion to allow the North Haven Fair the use of the Showmobile, seconded by Frank Montagna. All were in favor.

Request for use of Grover Wyman Field and Gateway softball field for the annual Never Give Up Softball tournament: (refer to correspondence) Scheduled for Friday August 13, 2010 from 5-11pm, Saturday August 14, 2010 from 7am-11pm and Sunday, August 15, 2010 from 7pm to 11pm.

. (Rain dates: 8/20-8/22). They also requesting that any fees associated with the uses of the field be waived. Suzanne Lewis made a motion to allow use of the field as well as waive any associated fees, seconded by Susan Puzycski. All were in favor.

VIII. Adjournment:

Ms. Stamp asked for a Motion to Adjourn. Motion made by Frank Montagna, seconded by Joe Capucci. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

The next meeting will take place on Monday, May 17th, 2010.