

DRAFT MINUTES/APPROVED

To: Parks & Recreation Commission Members
From: Eileen Pettit, Assistant Director of Recreation
Re: Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting September 16, 2013

Meeting was called to order by Chair, Mary Lou Stamp at 5:23pm.

I. Attendance:

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

Commissioners Absent: Michael Pomichter

Staff Present: Eileen Pettit, Assistant Director of Recreation
Lynn Sadosky, Director of Public Works
Carla Riccio, Secretary

II. Acceptance of Minutes:

Al Centone made a motion to accept the May 20, 2013 minutes, seconded by Joe Capucci. All were in favor and the Minutes were accepted unanimously.

III. Correspondence:

None.

IV. Director's Report

Eileen Pettit, Assistant Director of Recreation

Ms. Pettit provided a summary of the success of the summer programs. The Summer programs began July 1st and ended on August 9th. There were a tremendous number of participants in the summer programs. The playground programs were held at Clintonville, Montowese and Ridge Road Elementary schools. Each site averaged over 100 children on a daily basis. The Day Camp program, held at the Recreation Center, accommodated an average over 60 children for each of the 6 weeks. Ms. Pettit mentioned that the sport camps were very popular, especially volleyball and the Strength and Conditioning program. This year a roving Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) continuously visited each site daily.

The "Music Under the Stars" concert series concluded on August 27, 2013. All concerts were extremely well attended. Ms. Pettit has received great feedback from the public. She extended a special thanks to all the corporate sponsors for their continued support. She also thanked Police, Fire and Public Works for their assistance at each concert.

| Swim lessons went very well. 118 children participated in lessons during the summer.

The adult softball league ended on August 7th.

After the summer programs concluded, Recreation commenced with their annual shut down schedule. The pool was closed during the week of August 11th. Ms. Pettit was happy to report that there were no major issues this year. The pool was drained, and an inspection of the tiles, plugs, and drain showed all were in good condition. Damaged tiles on the pool deck were replaced. This is typical maintenance that is done every August.

Ms. Pettit reported that the pool drain anti-entrapments (which have to be replaced every five years) are in the process of being replaced by Brock Enterprises. They will complete the project within the next day. The pool did not have to be shut down for this project to be completed.

During the following two weeks, the Recreation Center was cleaned from floor to ceiling. Recreation is now ready again for programs.

Summer pool hours ended August 31st. Fall hours are now in effect.

Registration is underway for fall recreation and pool programs. Many programs will begin in the next week or so.

The track lights are on at the Mike Vanacore Field. Lights will be on Monday through Thursday evenings, as weather permits, until December 14th. An attendant monitors the field to ensure that proper foot attire is worn, that there are no pets and all the other posted rules are adhered to.

North Haven High School Girls swim team began their season on August 26th (M-F from 2:30 - 5:00 PM).

Hamden North Haven Swim team began their season this past Saturday, September 14th (M-W-F – 5-7 PM/Sat. 6:30-8:30 AM).

The annual Halloween Party is scheduled to take place on Thursday, October 31, 2013 from 4:30– 6:00 PM. There will be face painting, refreshments, pictures with the Great Pumpkin and entertainment. McDonald's of Washington Avenue is again co-sponsoring this event. Ms. Pettit cordially invited the commissioners to attend.

V. Old Business

Lynn K. Sadosky, Director of Public Works

North Haven Memorial Day Parade was held on Monday, May 25, 2013, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon and included the use of Vanacore Field, Bailey Road Field and the Town Green.

Board of Education (BOE) Football commenced their summer season on the Middle School Field on June 3, 2013.

Animal Haven Annual Tag Sale – was held on the Town Green on Saturday, June 8, 2013.

Recreation Department Tennis commenced their summer season at the Athletic Complex on Saturday's beginning on June 8, 2013.

Annual Stephen Cusano Give Back Jazz Concert – was held on Saturday, June 15, 2013 on the Town Green. Food vendors were also available to support the event.

Annual Music Under the Stars Concert Series – the annual summer concert series commenced on the Town Green and featured eleven (11) concerts this year starting on June 18, 2013 and concluding August 27, 2013.

Recreation Department Softball Pitching and Summer Camp commenced and completed their schedule on July 8, 2013 at the DeMayo Complex.

Family Movie Night(s) as hosted by the Pond Hill Baptist Church was held on July 12, and August 30, 2013 on the Town Green.

USA Elite Girls Softball Event – hosted their annual event from July 17th – 21st, 2013 on the Gateway Complex, Bailey Road and Brook Fields and the DeMayo Athletic Complex. The event was another success.

Northeast Annual Volunteer Fire Department hosted their annual summer picnic at the Pine's Park on August 11, 2013.

Jimmy V Foundation Annual Softball Event was held on August 16th - 18th 2013 at Gateway and Grover Wyman fields.

Festival of Angels (Sons and Daughters of Italy) hosted its annual event on the Town Green on August 23 and 24, 2013. The event was very well attended.

JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation) utilized the Town Green on Saturday, August 31, 2013.

Board of Education (BOE) Field Hockey commenced their Fall season on September 2, 2013 at the Brook Field and June 13, 2013 at Brook Field.

Max Sinoway Baseball commenced with its Fall season on August 28, 2013 and will utilize Montowese Fields 1 – 4.

Junior and Senior American Legion Baseball has commenced its Fall season on the DeMayo Complex September 2, 2013.

North Haven Fall Baseball (Coach Binkoski) has commenced its Fall season on Bailey Road for practices and some games starting on September 8, 2013.

Youth Football commenced with their Fall Season on the Gateway Complex on September 2, 2013 and Sunday games on Vanacore Field starting on September 8, 2013.

North Haven Soccer Club commenced with its Fall season on September 2, 2013 at Grover Wyman, Ridge Road and Memorial Fields.

North Haven Junior Indians commenced with its Fall season on Brook and Green Acres fields on September 2, 2013.

Special Olympics Softball started its Fall season on September 4, 2013 at Green Acres Field 1 on Wednesday nights.

Board of Education (BOE) Tennis started its Fall season on September 7, 2013 at the DeMayo Complex and play is held on Thursdays.

Special Olympics Flag Football started its Fall season on Grover Wyman Field on September 8, 2013 and plays on Sunday mornings.

Animal Haven Annual Walk-a-Dog-athon was held on the Town Green September 8, 2013.

Recreation Golf started its Fall season on Monday's at the Recreation Center Field on September 16, 2013.

LEAP Tag Sale is scheduled for September 28, 2013 from 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Funds raised from the Tag Sale will go to LEAP (Lawrence Enrichment Academic Program) for Grades 1 – 6 academic success, gaining skills and strategies.

Comment of Thanks: Ms. Stamp wished to thank Ms. Pettit, Ms. Sadosky and Ms. Riccio for their support in communication among the commission regarding various issues for discussion over the summer months. Everyone responded quickly, all issues were successfully resolved.

Review of Summer Concert Series: Ms. Pettit wished to provide the Commission with a handful of issues that she and her staff experienced during this past summer concert season. Among these included issues between competing vendors, which was a result of one of the vendors mistakenly obtaining an incorrect license (hawkers license), vendors not showing up to all of the concerts as required, vendors not showing up on time, and Town staff, including Ms. Pettit spending too much time addressing food vending issues rather than dedicating the attention to concert operations (i.e. setup, sound system). The overall concern is that there were too many food vendors on the Green at the same time and that the concert is becoming too “commercialized,” taking away from the essence of the actual concert series and original intent. Additionally, residents commented that the presence of food trucks on the Green were invasive, they created obstructed views for some concert goers and offensive as far as those trucks with running engines that emitted fumes.

A detailed account of a variety of issues and respective examples were provided and a lengthy discussion ensued among the commissioners, along with a variety of proposed solutions to the issues mentioned.

Ms. Sadosky agreed to draft a letter stating that the commission has reviewed the overall 2013 summer concert series and while it was a success in certain aspects, the overall feedback was that it was too commercialized and too many food vendors with too many inconsistencies in vendor behavior were witness and experienced by Town Staff and for those reasons the summer concert series will revert back to the original number of approved Food vendors, and this reduced number will remain consistent going forward until the Commission so chooses to change this action in the future. The letter will be drafted and reviewed at the next meeting.

Joe Capucci made a motion for Ms. Sadosky to draft this letter to be reviewed at the next meeting, seconded by Frank Montagna. All were in favor.

VI. New Business

New Business – Public Works

Grover Wyman (Blakeslee) Park Bike Path Project – Ms. Sadosky reported that the Bid Opening for the proposed 1/3 mile asphalt bike path, BMX bike rails (2), bike racks and associated construction was held on August 28, 2013. The successful contractor, TradeMark Contractors, LLC of Bristol was awarded the project and expects to start work on or before October 1, 2013. A formal groundbreaking was held on August 31, 2013 to showcase the Town's plans for the new Bike Path Project, which will be dedicated to Connor Kusmit.

It is expected that construction of the bike path will conclude on or before October 31, 2013 (weather permitting). Public Works plans to install the loam and seed, asphalt curbing and line the parking areas as well as the Bike Path in the Spring 2014.

Carina/Canna Park – a STEAP Grant for the refurbishment of the existing tennis courts (2) and basketball court was awarded to the Town of North Haven by the State of Connecticut's Office of Policy Management (OPM) for a total of \$127,000. The Bid Opening of September 12, 2013 revealed that Maisano Brothers of North Branford was the successful bidder and a remaining balance available of \$32,000 exists. The Town has formally requested that the additional dollars be used to replace the existing playscape at Carina/Canna Park. Ms. Sadosky reported that the State approved this request today.

Demolition of the tennis courts and basketball court is being undertaken by Public Works staff.

It is expected that Maisano Brothers will commence with the work under the contract by October 1, 2013 and complete such efforts, including installation of the tennis fencing, tennis netting and posts, basketball posts and nets, and lining of the courts, no later than October 31, 2013 (weather permitting).

The Department has prepared Bid Specifications for the refurbishment of the Practice Football Field adjacent to Vanacore Complex for Bid on October 2, 2013. This Bid includes soil testing, new top soils, loam and seed, installation of irrigation, maintenance and protection for one year post construction refurbishment work.

Jimmy V Foundation Softball: Post Tournament Observations, Suggestions and/or Recommendations: Due to Victor Palma's absence at this meeting, this discussion will be tabled until the next meeting.

Review of USA Elite Training's request to host annual Showcase for 2014: Management at USA Elite have requested to host their annual recruiting event in North Haven again from July 16th – July 20th, 2014.

Suzanne Lewis made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Al Centone. All were in favor.

VII. Public Participation:

None.

VIII. Adjournment:

Chairman Stamp asked for a Motion to Adjourn. Motion made by Al Centone, seconded by Joe Capucci. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 6:10pm. The next meeting will take place on November 18, 2013.