

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting of February 27, 2006
7:30 p.m.
North Branford Community Center

MINUTES

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER:**
The meeting was called to order by Victor Palma at 7:38 p.m.
- 2) **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Victor Palma, Brian Lynch, and Marie Diamond
Also present was Pam Gery, Director; and Deputy Mayor
Joanne Wentworth

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ronald Bergmark and Randy Joiner

- 3) **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**
Due to a lack of voting quorum, the approval of the Minutes of the meetings of
December 19, 2005 and of January 23, 2006 are tabled to the next meeting.

- 4) **TOWN SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS:**
Pam Gery reported that she spoke with a representative of the North Branford Soccer
Club to advise that the conditions at Northford Park have been taken care of. She spoke with
Frank Mentone regarding the dugout status at Totoket Valley Park, and Mr. Mentone advised
her that he has been in contact with the public works director and will present a plan to this
Commission in the spring.

With regard to the irrigation at the Northford Park fields, Deputy Mayor Joanne
Wentworth stated that the Regional Water Authority has sent her a copy of the previous
agreement and has indicated that a representative will meet with this Commission. Deputy
Mayor Wentworth will review the agreement. A short discussion was held regarding the well,
and Ms. Gery will check on the status of the \$10,000 in the budget for irrigation at her budget
meeting with the town manager on February 28th.

Brian Lynch then made a motion to have Pam Gery contact Public Works Director Fran Merola to determine which of the four soccer fields he will take off line for the upcoming spring season. Victor Palma seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed and the motion passed.

5) **PARKS AND FIELDS:**

Pam Gery stated that she has replied to the letters received by teenage citizens requesting a dirt bike park and a dog park. She is looking into the logistics of a dog park. She stated that she received responses from other towns regarding their portable ice skating rinks. Brian Lynch reported that the sign that the Eagle Scouts placed regarding the trails at North Farms Park has been vandalized. He has contacted Cherry Hill Glass for a sturdier repair. He also stated that the parking lot has been completed by the public works department.

Lastly, Ms. Gery stated that she has not yet received a call back from the message she left for Town Attorney John Gesmonde to follow up with his legal opinion regarding vendor fees.

6) **PROGRAM REVIEW:**

Pam Gery stated that repairs were made to the side door and area of porch railings at the Senior Center. She has met with the building inspector to inquire about additional handicapped parking spaces. The senior vans will now be parked away from the building out of the existing handicapped spaces, and then she will reassess at a later date to see if additional spaces are needed.

She presented the Spring and Summer 2006 Programs brochure which will be mailed out directly to residents on or about March 2nd. She stated that she learned today that NBIS will be unavailable for use for the Teen Adventure Camp due to asbestos work in the summer. She has contacted the Town Civil Engineering Technician Al Perry to determine if the high school can be used. The program book is already in the mailing process which promotes the Camp, so a location must be found. She reported that she has sent out sponsor letters for the summer concerts, and has already received \$1,200 from Anthem Blue Cross. Lastly, she was contacted by a resident/member of the Cedar Lake Association who is in the process having the lake fixed up and cleaned. He would like to have the Parks and Recreation Department use it for swimming lessons.

7) **MONTHLY UPDATE OF NEW PROPERTY PROJECTS:**

Pam Gery stated there was nothing to report on. Brian Lynch stated that he had heard that the YMCA is looking to open up a new 40,000 square foot facility with two swimming pools at the site of the former Hilltop Orchards in Branford. Ms. Gery is aware of this and in fact will be attending a meeting regarding the facility on February 28th.

8) **BUDGET REVIEW AND DISCUSSION**

Pam Gery will be meeting with Town Manager Karl Kilduff on February 28th regarding the proposed budget. She reported the following: Recreation Capital has \$250,000 for 2006-2007 for the Hyland property and/or the DiLungo property (this item is priority); \$100,000 for 2007-2008 for field improvement for the Swajchuk property; and a mobile stage for \$25,000 in 2006-2007, \$25,000 in 2007-2008, and \$25,000 in 2008-2009, for a total mobile stage cost of \$75,000. With regard to the Senior Capital, she reported \$10,000 for 2006-2007 to replace the

back porch of the senior center (currently unusable); \$8,500 for 2006-2007 for a dishwasher; and \$10,000 for 2007-2008 to replace the current 1999 senior van. Lastly, regarding the Community Center Capital, she reported \$10,000 for 2006-2007 and then \$5,500 for 2007-2008 for additional and/or replacement fitness center equipment; and \$5,500 for the repair or replacement of the outside walkway at the Community Center.

She will speak with Mr. Kilduff with regard to the Youth and Family Services' use of the Community Center's telephones, facsimile machine, and photocopier since they are now occupying the back rooms of the Community Center. There are costs and wear and tear on the equipment involved.

9) **OTHER BUSINESS:**

There was no other business to report on.

10) **PLANNING FOR NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:**

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on March 20, 2006. The approval of the December 19, 2005, the January 23, 2006, and the February 27, 2006 Minutes will be on the Agenda. "Budget Review and Discussion" will remain on the Agenda for a status update from Pam Gery regarding her budget meeting with the Town Manager on February 28th.

11) **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, Victor Palma made a Motion that the meeting be adjourned at 9:10 p.m. This Motion was seconded by Brian Lynch. All were in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Submitted By

Jeanette M. Marshall, Clerk