

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting of June 21, 2004
7:30 p.m.
North Branford Community Center

MINUTES

1) **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Brian Lynch at 7:50 p.m.

2) **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ronald Bergmark, Randy Joiner, Brian Lynch,
and Mary Caruso

Also present was Pam Gery, Director; Harry Dulak of the North Branford Soccer Club; and Danny Lynch and Thomas Lynch, both of the Boy Scouts

MEMBERS ABSENT: Victor Palma

3) **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

On Page One, Under "Town Sports Organizations", in the last line, "Mr. Gery" is amended to read "Ms. Gery". Randy Joiner made a Motion to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of May 17, 2004, as amended. Mary Caruso seconded the Motion. Brian Lynch abstained. Ronald Bergmark was in favor, and the Motion passed.

4) **TOWN SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS:**

Harry Dulak of the North Branford Soccer Club presented a document outlining his proposal for the creation of a joint multi-use field at Northford Park on Route 17. This proposal included removing part or all of the fence surrounding the outfield of the baseball field, placing a goalpost on the north end of the field for football use, removing heavy goals from the field and having soccer use lightweight, movable goals for practices and games, and having the soccer club jointly build a storage/concession stand with the football club.

Mr. Dulak expressed concern that Route 22 is a very moist field with poor drainage, and he feels that it will deteriorate quickly with both football and soccer usage on the weekends. He feels that the field on Route 17 offers more sturdiness and can support the usage better. He is concerned that the field on Route 22 will be lost from the wear and tear, and will need to be resodded/reseeded. He stated that he had spoken to Public Works Director Fran Merola, and with Frank Mentone of the baseball little league. It is his understanding that time and money holds his proposal back, and the Town Council would have to approve a budget for it.

The Commission members held a discussion with Mr. Dulak regarding this proposal, including a parking issue. They stated that the previous solution arrived at and voted on is a temporary fix for a limited amount of time, and for a short period of time (mid-August through November), and the members will revisit the issue again at the end of the football season to evaluate the wear and tear on the field. In closure, the Commission feels that they have already made a decision that accommodates and satisfies everyone.

5) **PARKS AND FIELDS:**

Pam Gery advised that Risk Manager Michael Betz needs to follow up on a playground check. She then distributed copies of the "Usage Policy of Parks and Recreation Facilities for Structured, Individual and Passive Use" previously drawn up last year. The Commission needs to revisit this policy with regard to usage by non-residents, priority of usage, and fees charged. She informed the members that she attended a Town Council meeting once again with regard to the vendor issue. The Council members reviewed the issues and scheduled the matter for a public hearing in July. The Council did agree to allow her to place a sign "Vehicles Prohibited on Field Per Ordinance" so as to keep vendors' vehicles off of the fields where town events are being held. Town Manager Karl Kilduff advised her that, per ordinance, the Police Department, the Public Works Department, and the Parks and Recreation Department all have a right to have a vehicle removed from a field. She stated that there were approximately 700 people in attendance at the Touch-A-Truck on June 6, 2004. Lastly, she reported that the Friday night summer concert series will begin on June 25, 2004, and this year the Senior Center will be holding a raffle at each concert as a fundraiser.

6) **PROGRAM REVIEW:**

Pam Gery reported that September 18, 2004 will be "North Branford Community Day" (which is taking the place of the previous Expos held jointly with the Chamber of Commerce) to be held at Memorial Park. Bands, crafters, and restaurants offering a "taste of North Branford" will be featured. The Parks and Recreation Department should be involved in that event. The Community Center has brought in \$59,588 in revenue to date, offsetting the maximum estimated expenses of approximately \$60,000. She stated that the "program coordinator" job for the Senior Center has been posted. This position will require someone with new, fresh ideas on reshaping the Center, as the wave of the future for seniors will be large. She informed the Commission that the number of registrants for the Kidz Kamp and the Teen Adventure Program have increased. Lastly, she distributed a copy of "Request for Qualification #3 – 2003/2004, Landscape Architecture Services, Master Plan Development for Swajchuk & Hyland Park, Fiscal Year 2003-2004" regarding the engagement of a landscape architecture firm to provide design services for the development of active and passive recreation and open space preservation on the Swajchuk and Hyland properties.

7) **LAND ACQUISITION:**

There was nothing to report on under Land Acquisition.

8) **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Danny Lynch of Troop 453 needs to complete a project benefitting the community for the rank of Eagle Scout. He proposed to the Commission that he remodel the sign at North Farms Park, and showed a photograph of the existing sign. The original sign was made by a member of the same Troop in 1991 and is in need of replacement. He would make a new sign, replace the rotted wood in the frame of the sign, and make three trail signs to be placed where the trails intersect. He would restore the original map and frame, construct a new map, and set posts for a location map. He estimates the costs to be approximately \$300, and would secure as much private funding as possible, but requested that the Parks and Recreation Department provide any balance. The Eagle Board of Review would still need to approve it as a worthy project. Ronald Bergmark made a motion to accept Danny Lynch's proposal, and to have this Department provide any funds that he was unable to secure privately. Randy Joiner seconded the motion; all were in favor, and it passed.

Thomas Lynch also is need of completing an Eagle project, and he proposed to build a cooker for the upcoming Baked Potato Festival so as to eliminate the need for the Town to borrow the cooker from the Town of Westbrook annually. He has a sheet metal fabricator to assist him with the materials and the work. He presented photographs of the cooker currently being used in Westbrook, and proposed a design modification so that the cooking grates could be pulled out to turn the items being cooked (as the one in Westbrook has the grates welded to the frame). He, also, will secure as many private donations as possible, but asked this Department to provide the balance of any costs not covered by that funding. Ronald Bergmark made a motion to accept Thomas Lynch's proposal to build a privately owned cooker, and to have this Department provide any funds not covered by other sources. Randy Joiner seconded the motion; all were in favor, and it passed.

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

The next regularly scheduled meeting of July 19, 2004 will be canceled. This Commission will next meet on August 16, 2004 in accordance with the Schedule of Meetings.

10) **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, Ronald Bergmark made a Motion that the meeting be adjourned at 9:38 p.m. This Motion was seconded by Randy Joiner. All were in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Submitted By

Jeanette M. Marshall, Clerk