

## **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

Meeting of September 20, 2004  
7:30 p.m.  
North Branford Community Center

### **MINUTES**

1) **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Mary Caruso at 7:45 p.m.

2) **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Randy Joiner, Victor Palma, and Mary Caruso

Also present was Pam Gery, Director; and Councilor  
Joanne Wentworth

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ronald Bergmark and Brian Lynch

3) **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

Since there was no voting quorum, the approval of the Minutes of the June 21, 2004 meeting will be tabled to the next meeting of October 18, 2004.

4) **TOWN SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS:**

There were no representatives from Town sports organizations present at this meeting.

5) **PARKS AND FIELDS:**

Pam Gery advised that she was contacted by Town Manager Karl Kilduff who stated that an ice cream vendor was present at the high school on an evening when the Booster Club was selling refreshments. The vendor stated that Ms. Gery had given her a permit and authorization to set up the truck. This information is incorrect. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Wolfe also contacted Ms. Gery, and it was agreed that the vendor issues need to be revisited with the Town Council. The only restriction imposed by the Town Council presently is that vendor's vehicles are not permitted *on the fields themselves*. The problem is now broader in that it is affecting the schools as well as the Recreation Department. Guidelines need to be defined, and a policy put in place.

Ms. Gery then suggested that since this Commission now has new members, a policy for facility, pavilion and parks rental needs to be revisited.

She reported that there are many complaints about the portable toilet service, Royal Flush. She has made many telephone complaints, but the port-a-pottys remain in dirty condition and not properly serviced, and in addition, there are billing issues with the Finance Department. She will document these complaints in a correspondence to the company, and at budget time, she would like the Commission members to consider changing vendors.

A proposal received by Ms. Gery from Christian Pikaart, Life Scout Troop 463 was presented to the members. Mr. Pikaart is proposing an Eagle project to make the area of the plot to the side of the Community Center adjacent to the North Branford Historical Society, more aesthetically pleasing with landscaping. This project will include clearing land debris, installing flat circular stones, a garden bench and a Troop 463 plaque, trimming overgrown shrubbery, transplanting ferns and hostas, and then mulching the entire garden. Victor Palma questioned who will then be responsible for the maintenance of this new landscaping. It was suggested that Pam Gery speak with Public Works Fran Merola regarding this proposal for him to review all aspects, especially the future maintenance it will create. Randy Joiner made a motion to accept the proposal, pending a favorable report from Public Works Director Fran Merola. Mary Caruso seconded the motion. Victor Palma was in favor, and the motion passed.

Lastly, Randy Joiner questioned Ms. Gery about the status of the inspections of the playgrounds and parks discussed at the June meeting. Ms. Gery stated that the inspections are to be done with the insurance carrier at the instruction of Purchasing Assistant Mike Betz, and have not yet been done. She will re-contact Mr. Betz in an effort to schedule this.

6) **PROGRAM REVIEW:**

Pam Gery reported that the September 18, 2004 "North Branford Community Day" was rained out and may be rescheduled. The new Fall 2004 Program Brochure has been mailed out. A page was included advertising theme birthday parties at the Community Center, and she was contacted by the owners of the Connecticut Sportsplex who felt it was unfair competition from the Town. A discussion was held regarding the room rental for non-competitive parties, and it was decided that Ms. Gery will schedule a meeting with Sal Candelora in an effort to reach a compromise. The Community Center has 618 members, which has brought in \$64,852 in revenue to date, offsetting its expenses. The Game Room will reopen on October 6, 2004 after being closed for the summer season. The pinball machine was pulled due to lack of business. The Children's Room child care cost is now being offered at a lower cost. Another upright bicycle and an elliptical machine have been purchased for the Fitness Room. She stated that the "program coordinator" job for the Senior Center has been filled. Lastly, she re-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:**

Pam Gery reported that she joined Town Manager Karl Kilduff and Town Engineer Kurt Weiss as they interviewed architects. She did discuss the broad spectrum of what this Commission would like regarding fields. The Town has now chosen an architect.

8) **OTHER BUSINESS:**

There was no other business to report on at this meeting.

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

The next regularly scheduled meeting is October 18, 2004. The Agenda will remain the same.

10) **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, Victor Palma made a Motion that the meeting be adjourned at 8:55 p.m. This Motion was seconded by Mary Caruso. All were in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Submitted By

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Jeanette M. Marshall, Clerk