

## **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

Meeting of October 17, 2005  
7:30 p.m.  
North Branford Community Center

### **MINUTES**

1) **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Brian Lynch at 7:40 p.m.

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

Also present was Pam Gery, Director; Councilor Joanne  
Wentworth (arrived at 8:00 p.m.) and the following citizens:

Harry Dulak, North Branford Soccer Club; Brian Just, North Branford Little League; Don Winnicki, Board of Education; Scoutmasters of Boy Scout Troop 453 – Eric Hansen, Carleen Gillis, Leif Selander, Mike Proto, William Redmond, and Gayle Morico; and Boy Scout Troup 453 members – Anthony Proto, Shawn Redmond, Matt Melillo, Chris Selander, Dan Patenaude, Stephen Gillis, Brett Hansen, Matt Proto, Glenn D’Amato, Alex DeSino, Joe Lynch, and Dan Morico.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ronald Bergmark

3) **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

Randy Joiner made a Motion to approve the Minutes of the September 19, 2005 meeting. Victor Palma seconded the Motion. A role call vote was taken, all were in favor, and the Motion passed.

4) **TOWN SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS:**

Brian Just of North Branford Little League stated that they wish to put in dugouts on the girls softball field at Totoket, as they did on the lower field. They will do this with Little League funds. The Commission approved this request, but had concerns about their spending money on a permanent structure with possible upcoming changes in the park. Pam Gery will speak with

Town Manager Karl Kilduff for any updated information available. He then advised that with regard to the installation of a scoreboard at the Babe Ruth field for baseball, football and soccer use, they have raised approximately \$1,000.00. He also stated that the league was approached by an advertiser to put an ad on the top of the existing scoreboard. The business entity is willing to pay \$2,000 for two seasons of advertising. The members approved this request, but advised him to use discretion in who he allows to advertise. Lastly, he advised that the outfield and right field lights at the softball field at Totoket Park are not working and need repair. Specifically, there is water erosion inside some of the electrical units. Brian Lynch asked Mr. Just to get the league's input for a "wish list" and provide that to this Commission.

Don Winnicki of the Board of Education stated he was in attendance at the request of this Commission to clarify who is responsible for the maintenance of playgrounds and facilities. He stated that the Board of Education is responsible for Totoket Valley, North Branford High School, and Stanley T. Williams and they have maintained them for some time. There is no maintenance contract at Jerome Harrison or the kindergarten at Stanley T. Williams. He recognizes that the Board of Education should do inspections at those facilities. Pam Gery suggested that she coordinate with him annual inspections with the H.D. Segur Company (the Town's liability carrier). Brian Lynch asked Mr. Winnicki to include in their next budget, repair to the baseball field at Jerome Harrison. The field was never finished properly to make it playable. Mr. Winnicki will contact Public Works Director Fran Merola to determine what needs to be done to put it back on line.

Harry Dulak of the Soccer Club stated that he attended a recent Planning and Zoning Commission meeting and saw blueprints for 3 "soccer" fields at Woodchase Road and Mill Road. The fields are currently two small fields and one large. The large is not an official size field. They would like to have the fields reorganized and reconfigured to make one large, regulation field and one smaller field. This would accommodate football, also. He asked who had jurisdiction over those fields. The members advised him that the Commission has not had an opportunity to determine how that property will be used; and that three groups (soccer, football and lacrosse) are all looking at using the fields. It will be a "multi-use" field, and will be allocated according to the needs of the various sports organizations. Mr. Dulak will get the blueprints from the next Planning and Zoning Commission meeting, and will obtain the deeding records and will provide them to Ms. Gery prior to the next meeting. Ms. Gery will attempt to obtain a status of that property from Town Manager Karl Kilduff. Mr. Dulak then stated that he has concerns about the deterioration of the front and back fields at Route 17, and wanted direction on who to approach regarding the conditions. A discussion was held regarding previous requests for irrigation on that field which have not been approved within the budget. Mr. Dulak was advised to place this matter on the club's "Wish List" and it will be revisited.

5) **PARKS AND FIELDS:**

Pam Gery reported that she will compile a checklist of needs with Public Works Director Fran Merola for annual purchasing purposes. She will present it to the members at the next meeting. She stated that Mr. Merola has advised, in response to our inquiry, the player benches at the basketball court at Memorial Field were removed a long time ago (after only having been there for one year). With regard to a non-union employee conducting inspections and performing clean-ups at Town parks before/after a rental for an event, Mr. Merola has advised

her that there is no conflict involved. Ms. Gery stated that some of her college-aged camp counselors could qualify for that position. She will use the winter months to check with other towns to determine their policies. She advised the members that she is still working on laminated signs with rules and regulations to be posted at the Pavilion. Boy Scout Troop member Matt Melillo made a request to the Commission that the Town offer a Lacrosse Clinic. Ms. Gery was receptive to that request, in that she is trying to capture that age group for different programs. She will provide contact information for the program coordinator to Matt Melillo, and he can establish contact with her. Lastly, Scoutmaster Leif Selander suggested that the Town construct a paved walking trail, perhaps from Totoket Road to Twin Lakes Road, along the former trolley tracks. Ms. Gery informed him that she felt that was a good idea and would love to see it; and, in fact, recently forwarded to Town Manager Karl Kilduff a similar request from a senior citizen, and she encouraged Mr. Selander to send a letter to the Town Manager with his request.

6) **PROGRAM REVIEW:**

Pam Gery stated that she is conducting an advertising push for memberships to the Fitness Center, with a flyer offering a \$25.00 discount coupon. She would like the membership to increase from 400 to 500 members. She is moving ahead with the annual Boo Bash (October 29<sup>th</sup>) and the Holiday Fair (November 19<sup>th</sup>). The Holiday Fair will be held at the Community Center instead of the Senior Center this year. The first Autumn Auction, which was held on October 15<sup>th</sup>, was very successful, with an attendance of 40 persons and funds raised in excess of \$1,400.00.

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

Pam Gery and Councilor Joanne Wentworth stated there was no update to report on.

8) **OTHER BUSINESS:**

There was no other business to report on.

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

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on November 21, 2005. "Discussion of 2006 Schedule of Meetings" (which will need to be approved and filed in December 2005) will be added to the Agenda.

10) **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, Victor Palma made a Motion that the meeting be adjourned at 9:00 p.m. This Motion was seconded by Randy Joiner. All were in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Submitted By

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Jeanette M. Marshall, Clerk