

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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

MINUTES

1) **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Brian Lynch at 8:03 p.m.

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

Also present was Pam Gery, Director

MEMBERS ABSENT: Randy Joiner and Victor Palma

3) **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

Ronald Bergmark made a motion to approve the Minutes of the October 18, 2004 meeting. Mary Caruso seconded the motion; all were in favor, none opposed, and the motion passed.

4) **TOWN SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS:**

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

5) **PARKS AND FIELDS:**

Pam Gery advised that none of the sports organizations have responded to the "wish list" request yet. Brian Lynch reported that State Representative Bob Ward has requested this Commission's "wish list" for the Mill Road property to determine if there are any state monies available. Ms. Gery stated that the billing problems continue with Royal Flush regarding the port-a-potties. The one at the field on Rte. 22 is still there, but needs to be removed, as the billing cycle ended in November. The Commission members decided that next year, this department will no longer be responsible for the portable toilets at any school field at which this department does not conduct programs. The members then directed Ms. Gery to correspond with

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Wolfe to restate a conversation that they had in that it is his intention and plan to monitor the conditions and accept responsibilities for the school fields and playgrounds (Playscape, slides, etc.) and to supervise the purchase and installation of any equipment. She will also advise Dr. Wolfe that this Commission intends to put in their budget asphalt repair at the Stanley T. Williams' tennis courts, to benefit the community. In order to make it playable, rocks must be removed, cracks filled in, and then painted. The Usage Policy of Parks and Recreation Facilities will need to be discussed and decided on at the upcoming January meeting, as Ms. Gery needs a policy implemented to fall back upon. Lastly, Ms. Gery reported that she had a conversation with a representative of the football league, and they are very pleased with the Rte. 22 field.

6) **PROGRAM REVIEW:**

Ms. Gery stated the Community Center is nearing the end of one year. The sum of \$72,000 has been taken in, and \$61,000 has been expended at the end of two fiscal periods. New members are still joining the Fitness Center. A one year anniversary celebration will be held on Saturday, January 15, 2005 for the general public. With regard to the Senior Center, Ms. Gery advised that two employees were recently terminated – the program coordinator and the part time van driver. An interim driver has been hired through February, and it is hoped that the current person who has been doing an internship will be hired full time as program coordinator.

7) **BUDGET REVIEW**

The budget will be discussed at the January 24, 2005 meeting. Brian Lynch stated that the Town of Branford has erected a new sign on their Town Green (as a Rotary Club project) which is very visible and very presentable. He suggested that Pam Gery look at the sign before the next meeting in order to obtain some ideas for a new sign to replace the one(s) at the intersection of Rtes. 80 and 139, and in the center of Northford. The new sign will be placed on the upcoming budget.

8) **APPROVAL OF 2005 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

The Schedule of Meetings 2005 was distributed and will be filed with the Town Clerk.

9) **LAND ACQUISITION:**

It was decided that Pam Gery will obtain a monthly update on new property projects from Town Manager Karl Kilduff prior to this Commission's meetings, and provide status reports to the members. The line item will be changed to "Monthly Update of New Property Projects".

10) **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Pam Gery presented a copy of an email that she received from a resident requesting permission to have the "Babe Ruth Field" at Totoket Valley named after her recently deceased young son. Ronald Bergmark stated that the field is not now officially named, and recommended that Ms. Gery forward that correspondence to the North Branford Little League for their comments and feedback. She will also discuss this with Public Works Director Fran Merola. It will then be discussed and voted on at the January 24, 2005 meeting.

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

The next regularly scheduled meeting is January 24, 2005, late due to the Town holiday. "Election of Officers and Directors" will be added to the next Agenda. The Usage Policy for Parks and Recreation Facilities will need to be discussed at the next meeting.

12) **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, Brian Lynch made a Motion that the meeting be adjourned at 9:12 p.m. This Motion was seconded by Mary Caruso. All were in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Submitted By

Jeanette M. Marshall, Clerk