



# TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

1599 FOXON ROAD, P.O. BOX 287, NORTH BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT 06471

## PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Special Meeting of October 16, 2007  
7:30 p.m.  
North Branford Community Center

### MINUTES

1) **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Victor Palma at 7:45 p.m.

- 2) **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Victor Palma, Brian Lynch, and Randy Joiner. Also present was Pam Gery, Director; and the following representatives of the baseball team "North Branford Pirates": Sisto Melillo, Don Morrissey and Ron Gamache.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ronald Bergmark and Marie Diamond. Also absent was Council Liaison Michael Doody.

3) **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

Due to a lack of voting quorum, the approval of the Minutes of the February 26, July 16, and September 17, 2007 meetings was tabled to the next monthly meeting.

4) **TOWN SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS:**

Don Morrissey of the North Branford Pirates baseball team presented information on the background of the formation of the team which is outside of the Babe Ruth League. He presented to the members a "Description of North Branford Pirates and 2008 Field Requirements 15U Team." Players were leaving the Babe Ruth League, and that is when they started this team last year. They charged a nominal fee. Next year they would like to concentrate on working with the kids, separately from the Babe Ruth League. They have come to petition this Commission to provide a field (Babe Ruth Field, the lower Totoket field) for one weekday for practice (approximately 1 ½ hours) and one weekend for game play (approximately 4 continuous hours.) This is a team with a development program, and a higher level of competition. Tryouts are necessary to be accepted as a player on the team. Victor Palma was concerned that this would impact the Babe Ruth League. Randy Joiner asked if a child could play on both teams, and Don Morrissey stated that would be unrealistic, as there would probably not be time for both.



Sisto Melillo stated that the Towns of Guilford, Madison and Old Saybrook have both Babe Ruth teams and a separate team. Randy Joiner asked if the team would consist of North Branford residents only, and Mr. Morrissey said that it has in the past, and probably would in the future, although that could change. Brian Lynch had concerns that having a premiere team such as this would strip the recreation teams of the talented players, and asked if the team could work within the Town's teams. Mr. Morrissey stated that last year the League Board would not endorse the premiere team, and that is why they went on their own without the Board's sanction.

After the Commission's discussion, Brian Lynch made a Motion that the Commission reconsider their original position on the support of the North Branford Pirates team based on new information received from the representatives of the team, and would like to have the teams operate as one in-house cohesive unit. Victor Palma seconded the Motion, all were in favor and none opposed, and the Motion passed. The Commission members encouraged the representatives of the Pirates to go back to the Board to work out the Pirates' concept to be incorporated into the North Branford Little League program, and to report back to this Commission by the next meeting any progress made. Pam Gery will contact John Kaczor, President of North Branford Little League, to advise him of the Commission's decision to reconsider, and ask that he participate in a resolution.

5) **PARKS AND FIELDS:**

Pam Gery was asked by Town Manager Karl Kilduff to create a concept of a new community center in four ways: (1) No community center - just recreation offices; (2) A community center with recreation offices; (3) A community center and a senior center without a fitness room; and (4) a community center and a senior center with a fitness room. She will visit community centers in other towns to see how they are set up, and get their specifications. She asked the Commission members to put together their ideas also.

6) **PROGRAM REVIEW:**

Pam Gery reported that the Senior Center auction took place on October 13, 2007. The annual Boo Bash is scheduled for October 27, 2007 with the High School Drama Club assisting. The annual Holiday Fair will take place on November 17, 2007.

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

Town Manager Karl Kilduff will attend the next monthly meeting of November 19, 2007 to present an update on the Wall Field relocation.

8) **BUDGET REVIEW AND DISCUSSION**

Pam Gery stated that there was nothing to report on.

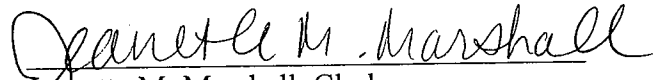
9) **PLANNING FOR NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:**

The next regularly scheduled meeting is November 19, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. The Schedule of Meetings will be added to the Agenda. Town Manager Karl Kilduff will be invited to attend for an update on the Wall Field relocation

10) **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, Victor Palma made a Motion that the meeting be adjourned at 9:24 p.m. This Motion was seconded by Ronald Bergmark. All were in favor, none opposed, and the meeting adjourned.

Submitted By

  
Jeannette M. Marshall, Clerk