



TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

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

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting of December 17, 2007
7:30 p.m.
North Branford Community Center

MINUTES

1) **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Victor Palma at 7:42 p.m.

- 2) **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Victor Palma, Brian Lynch, and Ronald Bergmark. Also present was Pam Gery, Director; and the following representatives of the baseball team "North Branford Pirates": Sisto Melillo, Don Morrissey, Donald Grannis, Michael Caron, David Cattaruzza and Ronald Gamache.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Randy Joiner 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 October 16, 2007 meetings was tabled to the next monthly meeting. Ronald Bergmark made a motion to approve the Minutes of the September 17, 2007 meeting. Victor Palma seconded the Motion; all were in favor, none opposed and the Motion was passed.

4) **TOWN SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS:**

The following representatives of the baseball team "North Branford Pirates" were present: Sisto Melillo, Don Morrissey, Donald Grannis, Michael Caron, David Cattaruzza and Ronald Gamache. Don Morrissey reported that he requested a meeting with representatives of the North Branford Little League program to discuss sharing field usage. In response, Little League President John Kaczor sent a memo with reasons why they could not work with the AAU Pirates team (no field availability, and their feeling of no need for an AAU-type team.) Pam Gery distributed to the Commission members a copy of the memo (undated), which she also received a copy of from Mr. Kaczor. Mr. Morrissey stated the AAU Pirates representatives are present at tonight's meeting to seek relief and guidance from the



Commission. Sisto Melillo stated that the lack of the Little League's willingness for negotiations for field usage is stonewalling the Pirates team. The Commission members asked what time blocks the Pirates would need for field usage. Mr. Morrissey stated they would need one weekday practice night - either one field, or they could share a field (infield/outfield switch), and either one Saturday or one Sunday per weekend from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. from the first week in June through the end of July. They were requested to complete a permit application and file it with the Recreation Department. Pamela Gery will request from Mr. Kaczor of the North Branford Little League their schedule. The Commission would like to provide a resolution to the conflict issue.

5) **PARKS AND FIELDS:**

Pam Gery stated that the tennis courts at the North Branford Intermediate School and Stanley T. Williams School are in need of repair. In addition, the basketball court at North Branford Intermediate School needs repair. Monies should be put back into the budget for repairs.

6) **PROGRAM REVIEW:**

Pam Gery reported that guidelines need to be established for guidance for the Senior Center. The Center is to provide community social services without medical assistance. A printed guideline needs to be created to provide to families of residents using the Center. There is some concern with senior citizens needing walking assistance to and from the van to their residences, etc. With regard to the Community Center, the free child care which was implemented to target at-home-moms is doing well. Additional target marketing needs to be done. The fall/winter programming is very busy. Pam Gery was contacted by a representative of Big Y Supermarkets regarding possible Community Center room use for an upcoming seven-day job fair. Ms. Gery will request the Town sports organizations to submit their annual "wish lists." A discussion was held regarding fees for the fitness center memberships. It was decided that in order to be competitive in response to other fitness centers' promotions, our fees will be reduced from the current rate in renewals and new memberships of the categories of resident, under age 60; resident, over age 60; resident, family; non-resident, under age 60; non-resident, over age 60; resident, and non-resident family. Lastly, Pam Gery she was approached by the Norwich Bulletin with an offer to print the Parks and Recreation program booklet. She presented sample copies from other towns that use their company. The printing cost would be \$1,600.00 in comparison to the current cost of doing it "in house" of approximately \$4,000.00. Personal photographs can be used for the brochure, and the company would contact local businesses with an option to advertise in the brochure. Ms. Gery has contracted with them to begin distributing the Spring 2008 brochure on February 29, 2008.

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

Town Manager Karl Kilduff presented an update as follows. With regard to the Swajchuk property, the overview plan is for two little league fields and one multi-use field and a permanent stage for summer concert, and passive recreation use (walking trails, open green space, etc.) Two field sites on the property are marginal and need work. Surface drainage needs to be installed, and the importation of topsoil and nutrients

for the topsoil needs to be completed. Progress has been made in reprogramming the grant to move Wall Field forward. Grant applications have been prepared for the small town economic assistance program for expanding the Swajchuk property.

Soil test evaluations have been done at Wall Field, and the soil scientist stated that monitoring wells are needed. The Town has an opportunity to secure an easement on the flood plains and wetlands portions of the property; however, the Town Council does not wish to pursue a conservation easement for funding. The current DOT project is moving along, but they have not yet met any of the deadlines in any phase of the project. The Route 80 and realignment of Route 139 is anticipated to be out to bid in 2010. There would need to be one year for field development and one year of field rest before use of the field could begin.

There was a question about the status of the Community Center/Senior Center being replaced as a joint facility on the Augur property. Mr. Kilduff stated that the Town Council is adverse to bonding that expense. The Finance Committee is projecting that the Community Center will go on hiatus for a while, and a current Town building would house the offices only for them. The Town Council needs to delineate what will happen. The two libraries will have two community rooms in them when the reconstruction is completed.

8) **COMMISSION MEMBERS' TERM EXPIRATIONS OF 12/31/07**

Brian Lynch submitted a letter to the Republican Town Committee for renewal of his term which expired on December 31, 2006. He was told by a Council member that the Council voted on him. He will await a letter from the Council so that he can be sworn in with the Town Clerk. Ronald Bergmark will submit a letter to the Republican Town Committee for renewal of his term which will expire on December 31, 2007. Victor Palma is undecided whether or not he will renew his term which expires on December 31, 2007. It is not known whether Randy Joiner has submitted a letter to the Town Council regarding renewal of his term which has expired as of December 31, 2006. Marie Diamond's term runs through December 31, 2008.

9) **SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2008**

The draft of the Schedule of Meetings 2008 was reviewed and discussed. The meetings in January and February 2008, and in January 2009 will be held one week late due to Town holidays. All other meetings will take place on the third Monday of every month. Victor Palma made a motion to approve the Schedule. Brian Lynch seconded the motion; all others were in favor, none opposed and the Motion passed.

10) **BUDGET REVIEW AND DISCUSSION**

Pam Gery distributed the Annual Budget 2007-2008 for the Community Center, the Senior Services, and Recreation to the members.

11) **OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business to report on.

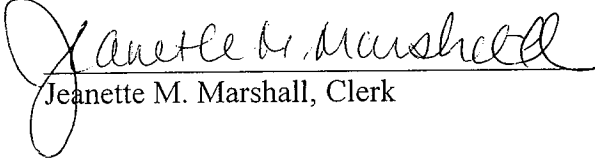
12) **PLANNING FOR NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:**

The next regularly scheduled meeting is January 28, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. The "Schedule of Meetings" and "Commission Members' Term Expirations" will be deleted from the Agenda.

13) **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, Ronald Bergmark made a Motion that the meeting be adjourned at 9:45 p.m. This Motion was seconded by Brian Lynch. All were in favor, none opposed, and the meeting adjourned.

Submitted By


Jeanette M. Marshall, Clerk