



# TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

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

## PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting of July 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 7:40 p.m.

- 2) **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ronald Bergmark, Randy Joiner and Victor Palma.  
Also present was Pam Gery, Director, and Deputy Mayor Joanne Wentworth.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Marie Diamond and Brian Lynch. Also absent was Councilor Michael Doody.

3) **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Due to a lack of a voting quorum, the approval of the Minutes of the December 18, 2006 meeting, the Minutes of the February 26, 2007 meeting, and the Minutes of the March 19, 2007 meeting were tabled to the next monthly meeting.

4) **TOWN SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS:**

Pam Gery reported that all sports leagues, Youth Basketball, Little League, Youth Football and Youth Soccer, will be donating \$300 toward the Baked Potato Festival. She confirmed that Youth Soccer will continue to do what they did last year during the festival and that Little League is also looking to get involved.

There was a question as to whether basketball provided its insurance for the summer program. Pam Gery indicated that she will follow up on this. She confirmed that they have chosen to get their own insurance for the upcoming season, and she will follow up to make sure that they forward it to the Recreation Department.

Pam Gery spoke on the soccer program being held at Northford Park by Rick Geremia. She noted that he does this program on his own and produces revenue from it. She confirmed that he did get insurance for this program. There was considerable discussion between Commission members and the Director on this soccer camp and field use in general.



Pam Gery also reported that there is a Women's Soccer Team playing on the fields and that time and space for that program is being given by Youth Soccer. She spoke on the need to procure a Field Use Permit and Insurance for this program. She confirmed that the Men's Soccer Team does submit a permit and provides insurance. The Commission requested that the Director contact soccer again to find out more about this Women's Soccer Team.

5) **PARKS AND FIELDS:**

Pam Gery reviewed a Memo dated May 22, 2007 containing fees on Memorial Field Usage. She reported that three groups have paid for the use of this field and that these funds will go toward the maintenance of the field. The Commission requested that the Director set a policy with respect to rain dates and refunds. There was a brief discussion on the fees by Commission members and the Director. It was suggested that the fees could possibly be raised for the 2008 season.

Pam Gery also reviewed an email sent by Little League to the Town Manager regarding plans for Totoket Valley Park. Little League is concerned with being taken off line from Wall Field and having no place to play. There was a brief discussion on this. It was noted that the State grant should only be used for this field relocation. Pam Gery will report back on this in September after speaking with the Town Manager.

Pam Gery reported that she received an email from a concerned citizen regarding the lights at the Memorial Field tennis courts being on late at night due to the high cost of electricity. She indicated that the lights are scheduled to go off at 10:30 p.m. She felt that possibly in the future they would have a system that automatically shuts off.

There was discussion on the patching problems at the basketball courts and tennis courts at Memorial Field. Pam Gery reported that the cracks have reopened. Ron Bergmark suggested that resurfacing be included in the budget for next fiscal year as he felt that it was more than 10 years since these courts were last resurfaced. He was concerned that this could be a safety issue. It was noted that there is the same problem at the Northford Park tennis courts but that these could possibly just be patched. Pam Gery reported that the cracks are not unlevel; otherwise they would need to shut the courts down. She reported on the condition of the tennis courts at Stanley T. Williams School as well and noted that rocks have resurfaced there. There was considerable discussion on the condition of the tennis courts in Town. Pam Gery will look into the last time the courts were resurfaced at Memorial and Northford and then check into patching versus resurfacing them.

6) **PROGRAM REVIEW:**

Pam Gery reported on the Touch A Truck event which drew a great crowd and was a very successful day. She indicated that the Connecticut Food Bank collected 875 pounds of food and a percentage of that was given to the North Branford Food Bank.

Three out of four of the air compressors went down at the Community Center. Pam Gery reported that two were repaired; the one for the Fitness Room and the one for the Main Office area. The air conditioning for the Candelora Room is still not working.

With respect to the Baked Potato Festival, Pam Gery noted that they are in need of volunteers as the event has been expanded to start at 12 noon and run until 9:00 p.m. She reported that there will be numerous food vendors including corn dogs, fried dough, sweet potato

fries, hot dogs and hamburgers and a bake sale. Local farmers will be holding a Farmer's Market there that day and will bring farm equipment for display. She indicated that she is working on the layout for the event and will use the lower field if needed. Four bands have been procured as she is trying to draw people to come throughout the day and Mary Caruso is working on a Top Tater Tot Contest. There will be 1,000 potatoes and two cookers, ours and the one from Westbrook. Parking will be on the adjacent Town-owned property. She stated that they are setting the standard for a weekend festival by holding a "Hot Potato" Family Bingo and Big Screen Outdoor Movie Night on Friday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Half the proceeds from this event will go to benefit Jeanette Marshall. On Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, the summer intern will be running a Dog Frisbee Contest on the lower soccer field. This is a free program that is also a great spectator event. Sunday is also the rain date for the Baked Potato Festival. The Chamber of Commerce has raised \$1,800 but more sponsors are needed.

Pam Gery reported on the Web Trac training. Web Trac allows residents to sign up and pay for programs online. She reported that there was a problem with the web host but that has been resolved. She felt that revenue could increase due to this new software program. This will not help with Fitness Room memberships as Web Trac does not allow for monthly payments.

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

Pam Gery stated that she has not heard of anything new. She will be meeting with the Town Manager in August and will report back to the Commission at the September meeting. There was a brief discussion on prioritizing and funding for field projects.

8) **BUDGET REVIEW AND DISCUSSION:**

There was no budget review or discussion at this time.

9) **OTHER BUSINESS:**

There was no other business to report on.

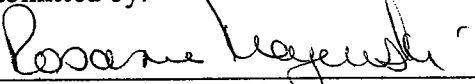
10) **PLANNING FOR NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:**

The next regularly scheduled meeting is August 20, 2007.

11) **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, Ron Bergmark made a Motion that the meeting be adjourned at 8:40 p.m. This Motion was seconded by Victor Palma. All were in favor, none opposed, and the meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:

  
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Rosanne Krajewski, Acting Clerk