



TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

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

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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

MINUTES

1) **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Victor Palma at 7:35 p.m.

- 2) **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ronald Bergmark, Marie Diamond, Brian Lynch, and Victor Palma. Also present were Pam Gery, Director, Joanne Wentworth, Deputy Mayor, and John Kaczor, President of North Branford Little League.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Randy Joiner. Also absent was Council Liaison Michael Doody.

3) **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

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

Ronald Bergmark made a Motion to approve the Minutes of the August 20, 2007 meeting. Marie Diamond seconded the Motion. All were in favor, none opposed, and the Motion was passed.

4) **TOWN SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS:**

John Kaczor, President of North Branford Little League, was present to discuss with the Commission the proposed formation of a non-profit AAU team called "The Pirates." This request is being made by Sisto Melillo and Don Morrissey. Mr. Kaczor reviewed the history of the Little League program as well as last Spring's experience with having the additional AAU



team. He spoke on how the additional team affects the competitiveness of the Little League program in North Branford. At this time, the proposal for the Spring of 2008 is to have the non-profit AAU team separate from the Babe Ruth teams. However, "The Pirates" are requesting the use of Town fields for their team. Mr. Kaczor spoke on how this AAU team would hurt the Little League program in Town. He noted that the biggest issue is the use of the fields as they only have two fields available, the high school baseball field and Totoket Valley Park. He was also concerned with the future of such an AAU team in the Town.

There was discussion between Commission members and Mr. Kaczor with respect to this issue. The main concern is the impact of such a team on the fields as there are only two fields that are available for use. The Commission was also concerned with a private entity coming under the auspices of the Town of North Branford.

Brian Lynch made a Motion to deny the request of "The Pirates" for field usage in the Town of North Branford based on the limited number of fields and the lack of availability of the fields. Marie Diamond seconded the Motion. All were in favor, none opposed, and the Motion was passed.

5) **PARKS AND FIELDS:**

Pam Gery updated the Commission on the relocation of Wall Field to the Swajchuk property. Joanne Wentworth confirmed that the Town is going forward with this but that the funding is being held up with the State Bond Commission. Mr. Kaczor requested that this relocation be done the right way. Pam Gery spoke on the possibility of phasing in this project, starting with the relocation of the field and then constructing the surrounding amenities.

Pam Gery also reported that Basketball is all set with its insurance. However, she has not received the Certificate of Insurance to date.

With respect to the Women's Soccer Team playing at Northford Park, Pam Gery reported that she still has no idea who they are as they are not part of Youth Soccer. She noted that this is an established team that has been playing for many years. 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.

There was discussion on both the Men's and Women's Soccer Teams between Commission members and Pam Gery. The Commission requested a roster of players with their addresses from both teams.

A question also arose as to whether premier teams are using our Town fields. Pam Gery spoke on the need to possibly get fees from these teams if they are for profit. There was a general discussion between Commission members and Pam Gery on the Park Permit process as well as on field usage and fees.

Pam Gery distributed plans for the Swajchuk property for the Commission's review. Town Manager Karl Kilduff will be invited to the October meeting of the Commission to discuss these plans and give the Commission an update on this.

There was also a brief discussion on the Hyland property and its future.

6) **PROGRAM REVIEW:**

Pam Gery distributed to Commission members the 2007-2008 Fall & Winter Brochure, noting that registrations can now be done online with credit cards. She reviewed how this will work and the glitches they have been experiencing to date. She hopes to be up and running soon. She also reviewed the free child care being offered as well as the expanded hours for this.

Due to the renovations at the North Branford Intermediate School, Pam Gery reported on space issues with respect to the men's Open Basketball program. They have consolidated this program to Monday evenings and will be charging a \$20 per person fee in order to help with the custodial costs. She noted that Youth Basketball will be using the Jerome Harrison School gym on Tuesday nights for their program.

Pam Gery reported that she is in the process of hiring a driver for the Senior Center and child care workers for the Children's Room. The applicants have all been North Branford residents.

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

A discussion was held under Line Item (5), "Parks and Fields".

8) **BUDGET REVIEW AND DISCUSSION:**

Pam Gery indicated that she will report on this at the October meeting.

9) **OTHER BUSINESS:**

There was no other business to report on.

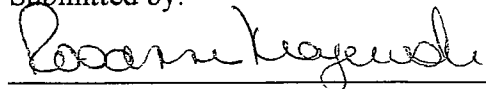
10) **PLANNING FOR NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:**

The next regularly scheduled meeting is October 15, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. Town Manager Kilduff will be invited to attend in order to give an update on the Wall Field relocation.

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 Marie Diamond. All were in favor, none opposed, and the meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:



Rosanne Krajewski, Acting Clerk