

Parks and Recreation Commission

North Branford Community Center

7:30 pm

Monday, January 26, 2009

Minutes

1. Call to order

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

2. Roll Call

Present: Dr. Brian Lynch, Victor Palma, Marie Diamond and Anthony Perrelli

Absent: Randy Joiner

Others Present: Director of Parks and Recreation Pam Gery and
Council Liaison Joanne Wentworth.

3. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Marie Diamond, seconded by Victor Palma, the Minutes of December 29th were approved with clarification that all the tennis courts are closed and secure for the season.

4. Town Sports Organizations

The Commission recommended that Pam send out a reminder letter advising all coaches that if their utilization numbers are not received no usage permits will be issued for use of the fields. So far only the football coach has complied with her original request.

5. Parks and Field

Cracks have been repaired at the Northford Park basketball court and the tennis court at Stanley T has been temporarily surface repaired, however they will have to be looked at again in the spring to see how they have held up this winter.

6. Program Review:

The new van has been utilized under a grant and so there are now two updated vans in service. The new brochure will be printed for spring distribution.

7. Monthly update of new property projects

None.

8. Budget Review and Discussion

Pam changed the outline for the Budget showing a line item instead of lumping under such as Contractual Expenses. Now it shows what each of those expenses are for. She has met with Town Manager Richard Branigan and Financial Officer Anthony Esposito to go over the budget and was advised to put the wages for the part time van driver into the Senior Center budget from the Special Revenue account #802, however the Commission felt that this was unacceptable since should be considered wages and not be taken from the food budget. It was recommended that she approach this again. She presented a proposed budget and addressed the various changes such as elimination of her Convention, cost of the brochures, etc. that will show a 2.4% increase after every thing is considered.

The heating cost for the Community Center will be lower this year. There will be a 5.1% increase in the Senior Center budget, but that includes the van driver wages under Account 802. Budget hearings will start soon, so copies of the proposed budget are being distributed to the Commission members for their information and will be discussed in more depth at the February meeting.

9. Community Center

This is the Five-year anniversary of the Center and the 5 (year)/\$5 program was a success. Participation in the trips is up and the fitness program numbers are increasing to approx. 400 members. There is still a deficit of \$40,000. New (second hand) equipment was purchased for the fitness room and Pam hopes to add and upgrade equipment when ever possible. Events Account #226 can be tapped for this expense and any new equipment or repairs without going to the Town Council for supplemental funds or seed money.

10. Senior Center

Food expenses have gone up and the small income earned from dinners doesn't cover the cost. Since it is a service to the seniors, she can't increase it. In looking for savings, Pam found that food could be ordered though the same vender servicing the schools and by combining the two it should save money. Revenue from Senior Trips is what is keeping the 802 account solvent, but before long it will be in deficit if it includes the van driver wages. Dr. Lynch recommended that Pam approach the Town Manager for help in researching grants for the Senior Center food service that might be available.

11. Other Business

The Golf Tournament date has been set for September 21st and the Potato Festival will be August 7th, 8th and 9th.

12. Planning for Next Meeting Agenda

Next meeting will be February 23, 2009 at 7:30 pm.

13. Adjournment

On a motion by Brian Lynch, seconded by Marie Diamond, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Leigh Bianchi
Clerk

Cc: Town Clerk, Members, Town Manager, Program Director and Town Council Liaison.