

Parks and Recreation Commission
North Branford Community Center
7:30 pm
Monday, October 20, 2008

Minutes

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m.

2. Roll Call

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

Others Present: Director of Parks and Recreation Pam Gery and Town Manager Richard Branigan.

3. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Marie Diamond, seconded by Victor Palma, the Minutes of April 21st, June 16th and September 22nd were all approved.

4. Town Sports Organizations

Pam Gery reported that she sent out the questioner recommended by the Board requesting numbers of participants but only one response from Coach George Cottiero concerning youth football was received. The Little League president has resigned and the new one's name is unknown at present. Others explained that they did not have numbers available because they didn't have them in computers, only on paper and would be difficult to access them. This could be read as not wanting to give accurate numbers or being unable to prove that there was a need for the fields for their sport/team. There had been reports that the Pirates were growing in numbers while Youth baseball were dropping. Tony Perrelli reported that this wasn't true; many were playing in both leagues and Youth Baseball was holding it's own. Marie Diamond asked if these results were needed for approval, but Pam responded it was only to recognize the numbers. Since fewer fields will be needed if numbers have dropped off, the questioner would be helpful making plans for the fields next year. For instance, if Soccer requested four fields and show that the numbers have dropped, the Park department could say that they didn't need

four fields, that two would do and either take two fields off line or assign them to somebody else. The need for maintaining extra fields would save substantial sums at a time when there is a money crunch. Brian Lynch recommended that she send them out a letter with a blank permit explaining that she needed to know what their anticipated needs for Spring are and they should not fill out a permit unless they have given the numbers.

5. Parks and Fields

Undelivered portables at TDS had been taken care of and adjusting of playground equipment at North Farms Park has been taken care of. Brian Lynch brought up the picnic tables that have been suggested as an Eagle Scout project and five have been promised. He had also addressed Scout Leaders concerning the sound stage as a project, suggesting that it could be broken down into several parts with each candidate for Eagle Scout could take one section as his own project, such as footings, deck, walls and roof, allowing each boy to take one part and run with it. This won't affect the plans of Scout Dan Caruso in making the picnic table his project, which is greatly appreciated.

Town Manager Richard Branigan gave an update on DOT plans that concern the field at the juncture of Route 139 and Route 80 as being set for 2010 at the earliest. DEP is sending revised contracts concerning the four hundred dollar grant and there is another possible five hundred thousand under the Small Town Economic Assistance that could become available to match the DEP grant. Another source of funds to see if we can tie into some agricultural grants for trails, however this would be competing regionally with the Farmington Canal, the Wallingford Trail system, the Long Island Sound Greenway, etc. all long established and adding another trail project would be put to the end of the list. In the mean time, Public Works is grading and getting access ready for the new fields that will aid also for the Potato Festival, since all parking could be kept to one side of the road.

6. Program Review: None

7. Monthly update of new property projects

DeLongo field (Mill Road) still needs some drainage work to be done and work on the detention basin that was created. So far there have been objections to the property being used as field that will most likely be used as a practice field. This could be a transportation issue if it was to be used for any high school sports, since there are no sidewalks in the area.

8. Budget Review and Discussion

The furnace blew at the Senior Center and the replacement cost was \$12,000 that was transferred from the bleacher fund budget that will have to be replaced under the new Capital Fund Budget. The money could have come out of the Contingency fund budget, however this was an emergency and the easiest answer was to transfer within it's own approved budget. There will be a need to address other possible expenses in next year's budget. Pam is putting together a summary of expenses and may take a survey of current

members to see what their wants and wishes are for the future, such as childcare, new equipment, etc. The fitness center has it's own knish and it's hoped that new members will be coming in and if there is a feel that the people using the facility would be willing to pay a little extra for more, an increase in membership fees might be acceptable.

9. Community Center

There is a five year five thousand dollar program that is off to a slow start. The Senior Holiday Bazaar coming up on November 17th. The Annual Festival of Trees has been well received in the past and might be expanded to have a Silent Auction where the donated trees posted what they cost and are auctioned off. Businesses and residents decorate a tree, wreath or other decoration and donate it to be raffled off. Pam has already received donated Christmas ornaments and her staff will decorate a tree for the event.

10. Other Business

There was a meeting prior to this and there were a lot of new faces as well as those who have helped in the past. Sheets were passed out soliciting people to head committees for arranging for volunteers, sponsorship, sponsor parties, vendors, the food tent, craft vendors, etc. Plans concern mapping out a proposed route for a cross-country road race. Rotary wants to run a potato pancake breakfast, a possible business expo tent perhaps run by the Chamber of Commerce. New fees for food vendors, crafters, etc. were all put on the floor with ideas on how to work them, perhaps by ticket for some of them. These are all question marks up for discussion and decision. Randy Joiner agreed that there were a lot of good new ideas. Victor Palma said good ideas were great and Brian agreed, but the more important thing is who is willing to take the ideas and run with them. A tractor pull was mentioned and it might be a good idea to look into the feasibility of this next year. The car show went well this year and it might be a good idea to request a fee and give awards for best in show. A motorcycle show might also be advised, since they all seem to rally in support of good causes. This must be ready to act on in the next two months

11. Planning for Next Meeting Agenda

The Agenda should be amended to show item #9 Community Center/ Senior Center. Next meeting will be November 17, 2008 at 7:30 pm.

12. Adjournment

On a motion by Randy Joiner, seconded by Victor Palma, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Leigh Bianchi, Clerk