

Parks and Recreation Commission

North Branford Community Center

7:30 pm

Monday, February 23, 2009

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 and Anthony Perrelli

Absent: Randy Joiner and Anthony Fiorrillo

Others Present: Director of Parks and Recreation Pam Gery, Council Liaison Joanne Wentworth, Andy Soliwoda, Dave Corso and Jeff Hoyt (NBLittle League and Don Winnicki (Men's Soccer).

3. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Anthony Perrelli, seconded by Victor Palma, the Minutes of January 23rd were approved.

4. Town Sports Organizations

Pam Gery sent out an invitation to all the sports coaches to attend this meeting to clarify the new method of scheduling of fields and the ones who did attend were appreciated. She explained that she doesn't need a schedule, just the times that the fields are needed in order to avoid conflict and knows when and which fields are free. Dave Corso expressed their concerns such as a list of Park & Rec needs prior to meeting with his coaches so there will be no conflict between the Leagues and the Town. Pam agreed to send out a schedule of Town events so they will be aware of their usage. She requested that coaches highlight and flag anything not on their regular schedules to bring it to the attention of her staff. Dave also said the League would like to arrange for a fence at the Totoket field and Pam said that the design would have to be approved by the Town.

Jeff Hoyt explained baseball is growing in popularity with a large number of nine to eleven year olds signing up. Babe Ruth League goes under the Little League, but is a separate entity with rules and insurance of their own.

Parking problems were also addressed, as many times the Community House parking lot is utilized by those playing or attending sporting events and there is no place for patrons of the fitness rooms to park. The Coaches were asked to address the problem before signs were necessary.

5. Parks and Field

In order to answer budget review needs, lights at the fields need to be shut off earlier and when the fields are not in use. The timers being used now don't allow for flexibility, so the Board suggested that Pam look into new ones that can be programmed to go off later on weekends and to look into eight o'clock curfew for daily use of fields for practice. Since football is a fall sport, lights are needed during games, however Don Winnicki suggested that practices could be done like soccer, when it gets too dark to play they go home. It's hoped to save thousands of dollars in energy costs by just cutting back on the need for lights. Savings could also be made by placing some fields off line if not needed so that the Town could skip mowing and lining them. This also depends on advance scheduling.

6. Program Review:

None.

7. Monthly update of new property projects

None.

8. Budget Review and Discussion

Pam and Brian Lynch met with Finance Officer Anthony Esposito and Town Manager Richard Branigan and, after a few concessions on both parts, were happy with the outcome. Now it has to be approved by Town Council.

9. Community Center

Fitness program membership is up and programs are well attended.

10. Senior Center

Everything fine. The zero increase in budget made the Town Officials happy.

11. Other Business

The Potato Festival is coming along well. Their meetings precede this one.

Brian Lynch mentioned that the Scout Program would be interested in making new Community Announcement signs and Pam suggested that they be LED capable because it was difficult to find someone to change the lettering and if they were LED there would be a possibility of renting space or added income

12. Planning for Next Meeting Agenda

Next meeting will be March 16, 2009 at 7:30 pm. at the Community Center.

13. Adjournment

On a motion by Victor Palma, seconded by Anthony Perrelli, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Leigh Bianchi
Clerk

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