

Parks and Recreation Commission

North Branford Community Center

7:30 pm

Monday, March 16, 2009

Minutes

1. Call to order

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

2. Roll Call

Present: Dr. Brian Lynch, Anthony Perrelli and Anthony Fiorrillo.

Absent: Victor Palma and Randy Joiner

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

3. Approval of Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of January 23rd was tabled until next month due to lack of qualified members to vote. However, the following revision was clarified: it was Brian Lynch who suggested that football practices could be done like soccer, when it gets too dark to play they should go home.

4. Town Sports Organizations

Pam announced that Harry Dulak is working with members of a Women's Soccer League and she will have a schedule sheet available for him shortly so that he can begin to plan his needs for the season.

Since soccer numbers are down, it is hoped to take another field off line this year to save on upkeep costs for the Public Works cutting, seeding and lining the fields, while giving the field a much needed rest. This has worked well in previous years because the fields come back better than ever.

5. Parks and Field

Pam is getting quotes for work to be done in the off season for repairing the tennis and basketball courts. Stanley T. is currently of line. Northford was patched last year though there is a crack that needs watching, but the High School has been resurfaced. Although Superintendent Wolfe said the school were the Board of Education problem, they still fall under the Parks and Rec Department for servicing them.

On the issue of field lighting, she has been questioning other area Towns, some of whom cut them off at 9 o'clock on weekdays. In order to meet with the Town's concerns over the electric lights on the fields, (they want to see a decrease in the expense by some 20%), it was suggested that she contact UI to see if they can do anything to help cut costs through their Energy Saving Plan. They might have info on new lighting and/or timers that could be installed that would save money while saving energy. Pam will check into it and report back next month.

6. Program Review:

The new booklet was sent out and is being well received. Kickboxing program is doing better than anticipated. The Potato Festival meeting is going well with more volunteers attending the meetings each month. Sponsorship is doing well, too, with some funds already coming in.

There are approximately 50 signed up for the Teen Adventure program that will be held at the Northford Park this summer, due to the ongoing construction at the Intermediate School and Jerome Harrison is unavailable. Pam said that other Towns in the area utilize their parks for their summer programs and the Northford site has all the facilities necessary to keep everyone happy and busy.

7. Monthly update of new property projects

None.

8. Budget Review and Discussion

Budget hearings are being held in the auditorium this Tuesday at 7 pm and no problems are anticipated.

9. Community Center

Fitness program membership is up and trips are pretty much filled up. There are about 400 members.

10. Senior Center

Everything fine, however Pam feels the Board needs to address the need for written guidelines, as it is long overdue. It will be addressed next meeting.

11. Other Business

Brian Lynch mentioned that a member of the Scout Program is very interested in making the LED Community Announcement Board and plans are being formulated to do so. He also advised the Board that the Picnic Bench program was ongoing and also, his son was researching repairing the markers and tombstones in the cemetery on Route 80, some of which date back to the Revolutionary War period.

12. Planning for Next Meeting Agenda

Next meeting will be April 20, 2009 at 7:30 pm. at the Community Center.

13. Adjournment

On a motion by Anthony Perrelli, seconded by Anthony Fiorrillo, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Leigh Bianchi
Clerk

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