

Parks and Recreation Commission

North Branford Community Center

7:30 pm

Monday, April 20, 2009

Minutes

1. Call to order

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

2. Roll Call

Present: Dr. Brian Lynch, Victor Palma, Ronald Bergmark, Anthony Perrelli and Anthony Fiorrillo.

Others Present: Director of Parks and Recreation Pam Gery, Council Liaison Joanne Wentworth, Stephen Saunders, NB Youth Football and Julie Sopchak, SCSU Journalism Student.

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of February and March were approved on motions by Anthony Perrelli, seconded Brian Lynch.

4. Town Sports Organizations

Stephen Saunders is seeking permission to place a small 8x8 ft. shed on the property to allow sales of apparel such as tee shirts, etc. He is donating the shed at no cost, however Pam explained that there would be a need for the Building Inspector to become involved due to Town liability and possible insurance questions. The Board did accept his offer of the shed and on motion by Anthony Perrelli, seconded by Anthony Fiorrillo it passed unanimously. Pam will talk to the Building Inspector and put him in touch with Mr. Saunders to arrange for the inspection of the shed and if it is found suitable, will look into possible use at the Potato Festival as well.

5. Parks and Field

Although permits for field use are still coming in, it looks like the soccer numbers are down, so Public Works will be advised to take the goals down and not to mark Totoket Field to assure that it is not used without permits. Football is up with about 190 participating and Totoket Valley has been reserved each Sunday from 7:30 to 7:30. Pam is checking on the time limitations for the school age kids. If the High School is required to stop practice by 8 pm, that should also be the time limitation for the Youth Football League as well. Since Memorial Field is the only one with lights, this would cut the electric usage as promised in the budget reduction costs. Mr. Saunders expressed concern because coaches of teams are generally not available early in the day due to work constraints, so practice time is limited and with so many teams involved, scheduling is important. It had been hoped that Longo Field would become the home field for football, however its use is still uncertain.

Pam reported that UI will meet with Public Works concerning energy efficient lighting at Memorial Field. Nets will be removed from Tennis Courts that are taken off line. The Northford courts are in decent shape and can be used. The basketball courts on Route 80 and in Northford are patched and ready for summer play.

6. Program Review:

Potato Festival meetings are now bi-weekly and plans are moving along. There might be a downturn in sponsorship, however it is hoped that new money will be raised though other venues. Parking is still a problem because although there is plenty of parking in the rear, it would require better lighting for safety/security due to the long walk and it would also require additional police directing traffic. Although traffic is a problem, shuttles are the best bet for moving people in and out and will be encouraged.. Additional busses and more places for people to catch them would help. There will be enough entertainment to draw the crowds necessary for a successful event.

Registration for summer programs will be starting in May and if they are as good as the present attendance, should be very successful.

7. Monthly update of new property projects

None.

8. Budget Review and Discussion

Budget review was completed and Parks and Rec came in at zero increases so everyone was happy.

9. Community Center

None.

10. Senior Center

The written guidelines have not been set up as yet due to the complex issues to be addressed. Pam has revised them several times, but not all of them have been answered and more thought must be put into them before she can submit them to the Committee.

11. Other Business

Parks and Rec is working with the Student Council on the Pizza Wars project set for this weekend and they have at least eight establishments in competition for the title of best Pizza. Cost is \$5.00 and everyone is invited to taste and vote.

The date for the Touch a Truck has been changed to May 31st.

12. Planning for Next Meeting Agenda

Next meeting will be May 18, 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 8:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Leigh Bianchi
Clerk

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