

Parks and Recreation Commission

North Branford Community Center

7:30 pm

Monday, September 22, 2008

Minutes

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Dr. Brian Lynch, Victor Palma, and Randall Joiner

Absent: Marie Diamond and Anthony Perrelli

Others Present: Director of Parks and Recreation Pam Gery; Council Liaison Joanne Wentworth; also, Gayle Morico and her son, Dan.

3. Approval of Minutes

Tabled due to absence of voting members who were present at the April 21st and June 16th meetings.

4. Town Sports Organizations

Some fields have been used for football during rainy periods and if the field is too wet it leaves the field in question unusable for other scheduled sports. It should be addressed to the coaches for their co-operation or some manner of policing will be recommended.

5. Parks and Fields

Dan Morico presented the Committee with a proposal to work on a project that would benefit them to meet his Eagle Scout requirement of Community Service and there were several suggestions made including building of benches or picnic tables, perhaps one to be handicap accessible, for use at the Town fields. Pam Gery commended the manager of North Branford Lumber, Mr. Fedelis, for the donation of two such picnic

tables for the Auger field where the Potato and Corn Festival was held and suggested that Dan contact him for direction if he decided to undertake a similar project.

A call was received asking protocol at Memorial Field when people wish to use the tennis court at the same time someone else wants to use the handball wall at Memorial Field and the Committee said it has always been first come, first serve. Who ever was there first gets to play.

When questioned what makes a field 'off line'; it entails removal of the goals from the field. The Commission suggested that they look into North Farms as the next field to be refurbished once Joe Calvo field is back 'on line' now.

A new system for issuing permits for field use is being sought that would be easier to manage and eliminate the possibility of conflict if two coaches request the same field for the same time and is not caught prior to issuing the permit. Pam Gery is currently going through records to learn the names and the numbers of participants for all sports using the fields and Brian Lynch requested a copy when she has them.

The feedback from the Potato Festival was positive. It was a big undertaking with fantastic results. The carnival was a total success and will only improve with new rides to be offered next year. Questions concerning the receiving more revenue were discussed and it was the general thought that there should remain no admission or parking charges, since many people came back the second and third day that might not have returned if they had to pay. Discussion centered on ideas of how the Festival might benefit by collecting a percentage of food venter sales, perhaps by selling tickets to be used to make food purchases though out the festival setting.

Also, leaders might be put in charge of individual groups of volunteers who would answer to them. It would be easier if one person were to be in control and assuring that things were covered for every time period for the festival. This could be achieved by arranging for their own workers and their schedules, thus relieving Pam and her staff to see to the inner-workings. Any one not wanting to serve as a leader could volunteer to be a worker or an assistant.

6. Program Review

Pam is working on setting up a new Web Site, being developed by Dennis Pannone, that will allow her to insert current info and pictures at will. It will help keep everything up to date and interesting. She mentioned that she'd appreciate the assistance of local scouts for the annual *Boo Bash* taking place **October 25th** at the Community Center.

7. Monthly update of new property projects

None.

8. Budget Review and Discussion

Pam is currently updating membership, expenses and revenue to compare the info with other years. She recently cut prices, but the opening of new gyms in the area has cut

into potential membership and it is uncertain if the offer of free childcare makes a difference in evening attendance. There are currently about 350 members.

The change from Friday to Thursday night Summer Concerts may have increased attendance, but it's hard to tell since some were better attended than others and weather conditions also cloud the issue. People who did attend were quite happy with them and there were a few birthday and anniversary celebrations taking advantage of the free music.

The Golf Tournament went well. Some \$2,000 went to the Community Center. It was probably set back causing poor turnout by conflicting with the Potato and Corn Festival however everyone there had a great time. September might be a better time to plan for next year

To commemorate the Fifth Anniversary of the Community Center special promotion requesting five dollar donations with a five thousand dollar goal and a celebration party has been planned for January 10th. It may be done when signing up for any of the programs being offered in the Parks and Rec. Fall/Winter booklet or individually by mail. Pam hoped this will bring in much needed revenue.

9. Community Center

No news on plans for a new Community House and there probably won't be until a buyer for the current property is found.

Brian Lynch offered to represent the Parks and Rec Department before the Town Council once numbers and programs are ready.

10. Other Business

None

11. Planning for Next Meeting Agenda

Next meeting will be October 20, 2008 with the same Agenda.

12. Adjournment

On a motion by Victor Palma, seconded by Randy Joiner, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Leigh Bianchi
Clerk

Cc: Town Clerk, members, Town Manager, Director Pamela Gery and Town Council Liaison Joanne Wentworth.