

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

North Branford Community Center

March 21, 2011

Minutes

Present: Brian Lynch, Frank Mentone and Lou Paternoster

Absent: Victor Palma and Anthony Fiorillo

Others Present: Director Pam Gery, Lauren Munro, Recreation Supervisor, Joanne Wentworth Town Council Liaison and Ken Lieberkind, North Branford.Patch.com (online news site).

Chairman Brian Lynch called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm.

The Corrected Minutes of January 24th have been tabled until Brian Lynch, Victor Palma and Lou Paternoster are present and the Minutes of February 28th were likewise tabled until Brian Lynch, Victor Palma and Frank Mentone are present.

Town Sports:

Joseph Candelora presented a plan to implement an age 11- 12 pilot program to acquaint younger players with Little League rules and regulation play in preparation for introducing them to the larger diamond and Babe Ruth play. There would be a need for use of Memorial Field for training and practice. Membership would be limited primarily to local boys. Permission was granted for such use of Memorial Field on the motion by Brian Lynch, seconded by Frank Mentone.

It was reported that there was use of a field last weekend and it was thought at the time that it was premature practice. However Pam noted that no permits had been issued for organized play last weekend and it is correct that the fields are off limits until April 1. Pam insisted that she must know who is on fields for play and practice and if no permit has been issued the team should be ordered off the field. Once Policy has been established, enforcement would be police involvement.

It was noted that North Farms is off line and goals have been removed. Also, there has been vandalism at the fields recently and unusual activity should be noted and the Police advised.

Bill Lovelace has organized a Youth Lacrosse League and has four boys and four girls teams ready to go and has requested use of the Mill Road field. Only two players are from outside area towns where Lacrosse is not an option, the rest are North Branford residents. No action was needed pending formal application for field use.

There has not been a presentation or update by either of the Eagle Scout applicants concerning their projects. The winter was difficult and could be the tie up on the one already presented. The Commission is waiting for more details.

Parks and Fields:

Field usage must be addressed soon and Policy put in place, so it is imperative that the full Board be present at the next meeting. Pam will run off the policy recommendations for all members and once mailed out should be studied so that members are ready to address them. The Board of Ed will also be requested to draw up a similar policy governing their fields so everyone is on the same page and will eliminate future problems. Once the Field Use Policy is complete, all team coaches and interested parties will be invited to a joint meeting to discuss it item by item so there will be no question hereafter about field usage.

Program Review:

The brochure will be out the second week in April. Some of the programs currently run at the Community Center will transfer to the new location at Stanley T. Williams shortly. This will allow more programs to be introduced at the Community Center and since it is the 10th Anniversary of the Potato and Corn Festival, it makes the brochure especially important.

The preparation for the Festival is going well. Dates will be August 5, 6 and 7. The meetings started in October and will be moving faster hereafter. There is a lot of enthusiasm due to so many who have experienced the previous successes.

New Property:

Things are moving along and an Engineer is on board.

Budget Review:

Department Budget meetings will be April 5th and 6th. Pam will advise time once set.

Community Center/Stanley T. Project:

The Building Project Commission meetings will be held on the second Monday of each month at 7 pm at North Branford Town Hall.

Senior Center:

The handicap ramp suffered severely during the hard winter and needed repairs have been addressed.

Some of their programs will be moved to Stanley T. and new programs will be made available. A Senior Appreciation Luncheon will be held at the cafeteria on May 19th to show off the new facility.

Other Business:

Lou Paternoster questioned the standing of AAU Teams and field usage. Pam said that proof of insurance is mandatory and that groups should consider the Parks and Recreation program. In that way any monies collected would be handled through P & R, and any leftover monies would be kept in the Parks and Rec account.

Next Meeting Agenda:

Due to school vacation the April 18th meeting has been cancelled and the next meeting will be a Special Meeting on April 25, 2011 at the Community Center at 7:30 pm.

On the motion made by Brian Lynch seconded by Lou Paternoster the meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Leigh Bianchi

Clerk

CC: Town Clerk, Members, Town Manager, Parks and Recreation Director and Council Liaison