

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

North Branford Community Center

July 18, 2011

Minutes

Present: Brian Lynch, Victor Palma, Frank Mentone, Lou Paternoster and Anthony Ferraiolo.

Others Present: Director Pam Gery, Joanne Wentworth Town Council Liaison and Emily Constance, North [Branford.Patch.com](http://Branford.Patch.com), Freelance Reporter.

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 pm.

The Minutes of April 25th have been approved by Brian Lynch, Victor Palma, Frank Mentone and Lou Paternoster.

**Town Sports:**

The Commission welcomed a new member and much of the meeting consisted of bringing him up to date on the history and the proposed guidelines for field usage. In a meeting with Town Manager Richard Branigan, it was suggested that a hierarchy be instituted with a five level plan of fees, with Town Sanctioned being the first level and free. Other levels might include In-Town Non-sponsored, In-Town for Profit, Out-of-Town for Profit, etc. and that fees would raise accordingly.

New member, Anthony Ferraiolo asked if Pam had the authority to disapprove Field Permits and she replied that she did have that authority based upon scheduling conflicts, overuse of particular fields, field projects, etc.

All of this will be addressed again once the Potato Festival is over.

**Parks and Fields:**

Lou Paternoster made a suggestion concerning the basketball courts, that are not in the best condition because of financial constraints and are lacking due maintenance. The backboards could be sandblasted, painted and sponsors could rent the space for two or three year periods, with the funds going into funding the replacement of rims, nets and fasteners, and possibly sealing the cracks in the courts. Pam said she would look into it as it would help defray the cost to the Town. Everyone thought it was a good idea and Lou said he would help promote the idea by looking for sponsors.

**Program Review:**

Nothing much to report, with the Potato Festival being on the front burner. Manning the parking is always a problem and they are looking for a more efficient way of handling it.

**New Property:**

Nothing to report.

**Budget Review:**

No report.

**Community Center/Stanley T. Project:**

They are presently looking at architects for the Stanley T. Williams project.

Summer camps were off to a slow start, but are doing well now. Air conditioning units were installed and with the summer only midway thru and a possible heat wave predicted, everyone is grateful for them.

**Senior Center:**

Senior Appreciation Day was held at Stanley T. Williams at noon on May 19th. Although not as well attended as hoped, it was successful and everyone attending had a good time. The entertainment and food was excellent.

**Other Business:**

Eagle Scout candidate, Christopher Olson, Troop 453, has proposed building a Bocci court on the Stanley T. Williams site, perhaps near the basketball court. He must raise the money for supplies and the project must be completed prior to his 18th birthday. He had hopes to be started in August and finished in September, however the site is still not decided upon and the Commission suggested that it might be

best located in an area where it could be expanded if interest grew, as they were sure it would.

Thoughts have been given to Mechanical Bull Riding, a Dunk Tank, etc. at the rear of the Carnival Rides that would have to be manned all day. Pam suggested that in return for help with the proposed fund raising projects at the Potato Festival, he might benefit help from the Parks and Rec Department. A percentage of the profits could benefit the project while easing the extra burden on the festival workers.

**Next Meeting Agenda:**

Due to the intense work on the Potato Festival, the August 15th meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting will be on September 19, 2011 at the Community Center at 7:30 pm.

On the motion made by Lou Paternoster, seconded by Frank Mentone, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Leigh Bianchi

Clerk

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