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TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

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Parks and Recreation Commission
North Branford Community Center
March 15, 2010

Minutes

Present: Brian Lynch, Anthony Fiorillo and Frank Mentone

Absent: Anthony Perrelli and Victor Palma

Others Present: Pam Gery, Director, Lauren Munro, Program Director, Molly Shira, Rec. Intern and Joanne Wentworth, Council Liaison.

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm by Chairman Brian Lynch, who introduced guest Michael Proto, an Eagle Scout candidate who presented a plan to map and mark a trail along the Farm River for hiking and walking. The Commission questioned how it would be maintained and it was suggested that the project be offered to one of the various volunteer groups after the trail is finished, since it is only an Eagle Scout requirement to plan and implement it. Pam will send a letter to Michael thanking him and approving the plan.

Action on the Minutes of the previous several meetings was postponed until April when it is hoped there will be enough members present to accept them.

Last month's discussion concerning field closings during in-climate weather brought up a problem of how to enter the information on the Web site. The compatibility of using a cell phone to connect to the computer on weekends would be a good answer, if Pam had one that could do so, but she doesn't and there is no money in the budget to get one. The cost of repairs to a damaged field if used during or immediately following a rain would be considerable. It was suggested that E-Mail might be an option, but again it would mean access to a computer.

Concerns about trash and recycling bins at fields will be addressed before the start of the season. Field permits have been issued for football and Little League, however basketball, soccer and lacrosse are still pending. Pam will check with public works to see what fields should be off line and recommend that when soccer fields are closed the goals should be removed. Enrollment in some sports is down, so expense for lining fields should be considerably less. The need for repairs to damaged basketball and tennis courts has been reported and must be given priority because of liability concerns should someone be injured. The alternative is to close them to public use and no one wants to see that happen.

Policy and Fee Structure used in the rental of recreational facilities, such as the pavilion, was discussed and Pam explained that she has someone who checks them prior and after use with the deposit being forfeited if the renter does not clean up and the inspector must do so. This defrays the cost of cleanup. On the motion by Frank Mentone, seconded by Anthony Fiorillo, the Commission voted to accept these recommendations.

The Hall of Fame will be addressed at the April meeting when all members will be present.

Pam requested more info on the volunteer who is willing to sand blast the backboards at the basketball courts and it had been passed on to the Town Manager to check on his credentials and qualifications.

The Senior Center Operation Manual has been finalized and on a motion by Tony Fiorillo, seconded by Frank Mentone, was unanimously approved with corrections.

The Spring/Summer Brochure has been sent out to print and features a new look and cover that Pam is sure will please everyone, it being a collage of town residents who participated in various activities during last summer.

Due to a lack of interest and not enough support the golf tournament has been cancelled.

After a discussion concerning discounted fees for those residents with disabilities and/or financial hardship, it was recommended that perhaps the best way to handle it would be to offer the Senior discount and have the policy put into writing.

The Potato Festival Committee is off to a good start, however since Debbie is currently demoted to part time and without additional help, it will be a crunch. The Kids Camp and Summer Projects are also in jeopardy because of the secretarial shortage. Lunches served at the senior center are attended by some thirty participants and funds generated by the programming that subsidizes the cost of meals may mean raising the charge a bit. Seniors are picked up by the Center bus and returned home later in the day, a service that many appreciate.

The next meeting will be April 19, 2010 at 7:30 at the Community Center

On the motion by Frank Fiorillo, seconded by Frank Mentone, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Leigh Bianchi

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Clerk

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