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TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

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Parks and Recreation Commission North Branford Community Center October 18, 2010

Minutes

Present: Brian Lynch, Victor Palma, Anthony Perrelli and Anthony Fiorillo.

Absent: Frank Mentone

Others Present: Director Pam Gery, Town Manager Richard Branigan and Joanne Wentworth, Council Liaison, Kyle R. Stevens, President/Director, North Branford Baseball Club; Robert D. Wazna, NBBC member; Joseph Candalora, President, North Branford Little League Andy Soliwoda, NBLL and Barbara Fiorillo, (interested resident).

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm by Chairman Brian Lynch.

Minutes of September 20, 2010 were accepted on the motion by Brian Lynch, seconded by Anthony Perrelli and were approved by the members.

Appeal of Field Use Denial

Town Manager Richard Branigan addressed the history of Kyle Stevens request for field use and confirmed that the Town Attorney had addressed the issue as well and prior to receiving the amended version of his request to the State for recognition as a non-profit organization dated September 30, 2010, all concerned felt that, based upon the original application submitted to the Park and Rec for field use, the Commission was correct to deny it. However, with the new application and proof that there is a Certificate of Amendment for a Nonstock Corporation, along with the preparation of the IRS Form 1023 501(c) (3) that have already been submitted to the Secretary of State, once issued, they should be allowed field use when a field is available/ready for use.

There was a long discussion with concerns that the new North Branford Baseball Club seems to be quite involved with Strike Zone, a for-profit business, this being the prime negative comment. However, they have also been affiliated with Ct. Storm, which in the past has been Branford ABC, a non-profit group.

Also, addressed was the future opening of doors to other non-profits requesting field use and the criteria that needs to be set in place if and when that happens. Mr. Stevens assured the



Commission that this past year his five teams were comprised of about fifty percent North Branford kids, therefore benefiting the youth of North Branford. He assured that the fees that participants pay entitles them to discounts through Strike Zone on the services they offer (tutoring, music lessons, etc.) and that the only affiliation is that his father, Mark Stevens, owns Strike Zone and donates office space to North Branford Baseball Club. It was pointed out that in return for the discounts and free office space, Strike Zone would benefit from a tax write-off and Kyle Stevens thanked them for that information as he had not considered it.

There was no need for a vote because if the forms are submitted and the request for the field use is done in order, the Town Attorney will look everything over. If it fulfills the requirements of the Town Charter, availability for field time will be the only issue.

Mr. Candalora was also in attendance representing the North Branford Little League who have had use of the fields for many years and help groom and prepare them for use. He explained that over a period of time they have donated a great deal of money to the Town that was raised at their concession booth by their volunteers and that they have improved the parks to pay for expenses incurred by their use. They have a good working arrangement with the Town Public Works, who allow them to volunteer to help service and prepare the fields. He felt that including a new group would put a burden on the fields which would harm them. Mr. Stevens said he has a similar arrangement in mind as they have done in other towns when allowed, if his teams are allowed use of the fields.

Mrs. Fiorillo attended as an interested resident and parent addressing the need for free field time for North Branford girls, who would like to practice softball but are not a non-profit organization. At present they rent field time at various surrounding Towns, but must arrange for car pools and such to ferry the girls around while passing local fields that are vacant. Pam explained that there are times when fields seem to be not in use, however it is not always the case since they might be off line for rest or it could be weather related.

Mrs. Fiorillo explained that they do not charge any fees for coaching, as it is just a neighborhood group of interested eleven year olds who want to improve their skills with a eye to a future in sports. Pam asked that she come in to discuss a possible Park and Rec sponsorship for such a team and how to better organize it, addressing an obvious Town need for more girls sports.

Town Sports

No report.

Parks and Fields

Nothing to report.

Programs:

There is a special event for Halloween at Totokett Valley that will be reported in the New Haven Register shortly. It will be free to all residents as a Trick or Treat Nite, with activities and

entertainment for the kids combined with a car show. There are some 20 cars already signed up and each will have a Halloween Theme with costumes and treats. It is hoped it will become a yearly event and keep both parents and children happy in place of visiting neighborhoods seeking candy.

Update of New Property Projects:

Nothing to report.

Budget Review:

Nothing at this time.

Community Center:

Pam reported that the grant money allocated for the moving the Community Center to Stanley T. Williams School has been received. Pam expressed delight that the measurement of the fitness rooms at the new facility is exactly the same as the those at the present location and that the gym and cafeteria will serve nicely for the Senior activities when the move is made to their new home at Stanley T.

Senior Center

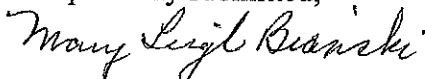
The Holiday Bazaar will be held on November 20th from 9 am to 2 pm at the Senior Center.

Next Meeting Agenda:

The next meeting will be at 7:30 pm, November 15, 2010 at the Stanley T. Williams School which will give the Commission an opportunity to see the facility and the opportunities it offers.

On the motion by Anthony Perrelli, seconded by Victor Palma the meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Leigh Bianchi

Clerk