



TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

1599 FOXON ROAD, P.O. BOX 287, NORTH BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT 06471.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting of March 19, 2007
7:30 p.m.
North Branford Community Center

MINUTES

1) **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Victor Palma at 7:38 p.m.

- 2) **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Victor Palma, Brian Lynch and Marie Diamond.
Also present was Pam Gery, Director; and John Kaczor, President of North Branford Little League.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ronald Bergmark and Randy Joiner. Also absent was Council Liaison Michael Doody.

3) **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

Marie Diamond made a Motion to approve the Minutes of the June 19, 2006 meeting. Brian Lynch seconded the Motion. All were in favor, none opposed, and the Motion was passed.

Due to a lack of voting quorum, the approval of the Minutes of the December 18, 2006 and the Minutes of the February 26, 2007 meetings was tabled to the next monthly meeting.

4) **TOWN SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS:**

John Kaczor, President of North Branford Little League requested permission from the Commission to have an electronic scoreboard placed at Totoket Valley Park field. He distributed a flyer with a picture of the scoreboard and the field with regard to its placement. The scoreboard would be 4'x8', on two poles, only requiring 120V power, would be down the third baseline, and would draw power from the existing football scoreboard or the existing softball scoreboard. Three electricians within the League have volunteered to do the electrical work at no cost. Mr. Kaczor has already spoken with Public Works Director Fran Merola, and he has approved it. Brian Lynch is concerned about volunteer electricians doing electrical work without knowledge of the existing



electricity on the field. He asked Recreation Director Pam Gery to have the work cleared with Mr. Merola, and to have him be certain that proper permits are taken out. Victor Palma stated that he would prefer that someone under Mr. Merola's jurisdiction is on site when the work is performed. Brian Lynch then made a Motion that the Commission approve the installation of a baseball scoreboard at Totoket Valley Park field per approval of Public Works Director Fran Merola to the exact location as shown with any necessary permits. Victor Palma seconded the Motion; all were in favor, none opposed, and the Motion was passed.

Pam Gery reported that the new bleachers requested for Totoket Valley Park field in Mr. Kaczor's "Wish List" was cut from the proposed capital budget. Mr. Kaczor then asked if the existing bleachers at Northford Park, which are in better condition, could be switched with the existing bleachers at Totoket Valley Park field. The Commission agreed, and Victor Palma made a Motion to have the Public Works Department remove the bleachers at Northford Park and place them at Totoket Valley Park field, and have the bleachers at Totoket Valley Park field removed and placed at Northford Park. Brian Lynch seconded the Motion; all were in favor, none opposed, and the Motion was passed.

Lastly, Mr. Kaczor requested that the Stephen Lenzi League sign at Totoket Valley Park field be taken down. The Commission agreed that the Public Works Department would do so.

5) **PARKS AND FIELDS:**

Pam Gery presented a copy of an Application for Permit for Park/Pavilion/Field/Camping use which is available on the Town's web site. In reference to last month's meeting regarding the custodial fees that our recreation department pays for basketball, especially the increased fees on the weekends, she then stated that she spoke with Lou Paternoster regarding his traveling teams versus his recreation league teams. Mr. Paternoster advised her that the travel teams are within the recreation league; and that the games are played on Sundays, and there is one practice held. (The Commission members only wanted games and not practices held on weekends.) There are approximately 100 children signed up. Lastly, she reported that a young girl was injured at a basketball game and Ms. Gery had been contacted by an attorney. The Commission discussed whether or not that situation would fall under the Town's basketball insurance. Brian Lynch requested Ms. Gery to contact other towns for their policy for basketball associations to determine whether they have separate insurance policies, or if their insurance falls under the Town insurance, and he also requested that she ask Town Attorney John Gesmonde for his legal opinion.

6) **PROGRAM REVIEW:**

Pam Gery reported that the Program Brochure has been mailed out; and that she has contact information to attempt to get a helicopter for the upcoming Touch-A-Truck. She advised that there is a meeting on March 22, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. at Cedar's Restaurant for planning for the Baked Potato and Roasted Corn Festival (on August 4th). She would like civic organizations to become involved with an opportunity for them to raise funds for themselves. She already has a Boy Scout troop sponsoring and running the Dunk

Tank, the Ambulance Company selling french fries and sweet potato fries, the Chamber of Commerce sponsoring a band, and the Student Council and a cheer leading troupe have expressed an interest in being involved. She has contacted Matt Cannelli of the Police Department to discuss a possible 5K road race in conjunction with the festival. The Commission members discussed whether a flat fee will be charged to the organizations (and what that fee would be), or a percentage of sales would be charged. A decision was not yet made. Her next idea would be to have wireless internet connection for use at the Town Parks. She is checking with the Recreation Department of Colchester who already has it. Lastly, she stated that she is looking into purchasing WebTrack to enable people to register and pay for programs by credit card through the internet. WebTrack will connect to the existing RecTrack program. She will get a presentation from the Branford Recreation Department, who is already using it. The funds for the software could come out of the programming money.

7) **MONTHLY UPDATE OF NEW PROPERTY PROJECTS:**

Pam Gery stated that there was nothing to report on.

8) **BUDGET REVIEW AND DISCUSSION**

Pam Gery stated that although she requested a copy of the proposed Town Manager-Approved Budget from Finance Director Anthony Esposito, she did not receive it. She will try again to obtain a copy to present to the Commission members at the next monthly meeting of April 16, 2007.

9) **OTHER BUSINESS:**

There was no other business to report on.

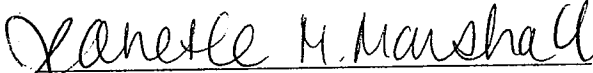
10) **PLANNING FOR NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA:**

The next regularly scheduled meeting is April 16, 2007.

11) **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, Marie Diamond made a Motion that the meeting be adjourned at 8:50 p.m. This Motion was seconded by Brian Lynch. All were in favor, none opposed, and the meeting adjourned.

Submitted By


Jeanette M. Marshall, Clerk

