



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

North Branford Community Center

September 17, 2012

Minutes

Present: Brian Lynch, Frank Mentone, Karen Ablondi and Bruce Wentworth

Absent: Victor Palma

Brian Lynch called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. He then made a motion to accept the Minutes of June 18, 2012 and on a second by Frank Mentone, they were approved.

Town Sports

Little League President Joe Mascari brought up a question concerning a father in town that has made his own AAU type baseball team. This father now wants to use town fields and the question is how this fits into the new Park and Rec policy. He said that this coach requested Little League schedules. Pam answered that she was aware of it and that he had contacted her regarding field usage and he has still not given her the required info on the players to assure they make up the 75% town residency. Frank Mentone understands that this particular coach has been given the High School field to practice on. Since there is a shortage of fields, Mr. Mascari wondered if his younger players could still use Wall Field and Pam assured that it would be no problem at present, as long as it was only for the younger ones and therefore would not hamper the safety or the work being done by State DOT workers. She will check to see the proposed timetable for Wall field availability come Spring.

The dugouts that Eagle Scout Candidate Mitchell Nowak proposed are being prepared this week and then he will be ready to complete his proposed bleacher project. He asked if he could change the colors he had originally proposed to a deeper purple, however the Commission felt that they should remain the same as the colors already there and his original proposal, since there was no sample indicating what the new color would be.

Field usage during in-climate weather was again discussed. Pam said the policy worked well when the weather was easy to predict, however more difficult when it changed without warning during the day. It must be addressed by the team coaches and common sense should rule if a field is suitable for play or not. Suggestions ranged from requiring teams to put up funds to repair any damaged fields, to hiring someone to inspect and report on them daily. No decision was made and it will be discussed at a possible meeting with the coaches.

The Youth Conditioning football program was successful as a first time venture with 25 participants.

Program

Pam met with Superintendent of Schools Scott Schumacher to discuss the overlap between the Board of Ed Summer Programs with the Park and Rec programs. He agreed they should not have to compete with one another and advised her to have Lauren at Park and Rec meet with Lauren from the BOE Summer program director. This is a good fundraiser that he would like to keep in place, but agreed there should not be a need to place it in direct competition with the P & R Summer program.

The Touch a Truck event was also successful as was the Potato Festival, though more sponsorship is needed. The new Brochure has been sent out and was well received. The Commission agreed that it was very beautifully done, in spite of the time and funding restraints.

New Property

Ongoing and making progress. An architect has been hired to design the new Community Center and Pam is awaiting approval of grants. She will know more after the next PPBC meeting.

a. Dog Park

Fundraising has started and is doing very well. The first event is set to be a Bark-at-the-Park set for October 20th. Other events are in the planning stage.

Senior Center

Active and doing well.

Adjournment

On the motion by Brian Lynch, seconded by Frank Mentone the meeting adjourned at 8:25. The next meeting will be held October 15, 2012 at 7:30 pm at the Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Leigh Bianchi

Clerk

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