

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL BY THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

The Parks and Recreation Commission held an in-person meeting on Tuesday, July 13, 2021 with an opportunity for phone – in public participation, in the multipurpose room of the Senior Center, 8 Simpson Street, Newtown, CT

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clinton DePaolo at 6:15 pm

Present: Clinton DePaolo, Jim Parker, Vincent Yanni, Warren Spencer

Staff Present: Amy Mangold, RoseAnn Reggiano, Carl Samuelson

Absent: Aaron Britton, David Payne, Rance Thompson

Public: Mr. Glenn Boyle- 23 Park Lane, Newtown, CT 06470
Ms. Yvonne Landolfi- Chesnut Knoll, Sandy Hook, CT 06482
Jim and Theresa Ritchie – 81 High Rock Road, Sandy Hook, CT 06482
Ms. Alexa Larson- 211 Greenwood Avenue, Bethel, CT 06801

Public Participation:

- Mr. Glenn Boyle started by thanking the Newtown Parks and Recreation department for their work and what they have been doing this year. He also told the commission that he has stepped down from the Tennis Associations since last month but is still interested in where we were with the tennis court rentals.
- Ms. Theresa Ritchie thanked the department and the commission for everything they have been doing with the dog park. She told that she wants to do a dog park clean up with a group of about 12 people and asked if they could borrow a power washer to help clean. Mr. Carl Samuelson said that would be fine and asked if they could potentially do the clean up during the week so that a maintainer could go down to the dog park with it and help get it set up.
- Ms. Theresa Ritchie went on to talk about how she highly disagrees with the nonresident parking permit that is required for the dog park and does not think it is fair and that \$150 is a lot of money for out of towners to pay just to use the dog park. She believes it is against the “Nicer in Newtown” motto. Mr. Clinton DePaolo explained that the cost of the parking permit is to offset the cost of maintenance which is usually paid by resident taxes. But he did agree that it is something to look into. Ms. Ritchie asked if the price could at least be lowered. Ms. Amy Mangold explained how the pass gives access to more parks than just the dog park like Treadwell, Dickinson, and Eichler’s Cove. Ms. Theresa Ritchie asked if there could be a pass created just for the dog park.
- Ms. Yvonne Landolfi supported what Ms. Theresa Ritchie was saying about the park permit for the dog park. Ms. Landolfi also made the suggestion to have a permit made for just the dog park.
- Ms. Yvonne Landolfi asked about the benches that were supposed to be put in at the dog park. She mentioned that she had been told they were in but asked why they haven’t been

installed yet. Mr. Carl Samuelson explained that it is on the list to be done after the dug outs at Glander are completed. He gave a time frame of about 2 weeks.

- Ms. Yvonne Landolfi also asked about the third Purell station that was supposed to be put in at the dog park. Mr. Carl Samuelson said that because of COVID it still hasn't come in but once it does it will be installed.
- Mr. Jim Ritchie spoke on his support of the reduction of the town pass fees for nonresidents.
- Ms. Alexa Larson reported that she has planted an organic garden at the Senior Center. Brought up some mulch concerns.

Acceptance of Minutes: Motion:

- **Acceptance of Minutes:** Commissioner Vincent Yanni made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 11, 2021 commission meeting. Commissioner Warren Spencer seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the acceptance of the minutes.
- **Acceptance of Minutes:** Commissioner Warren Spencer made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 8, 2021 commission meeting. Commissioner Vincent Yanni seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the acceptance of the minutes.

Old Business:

- *Bicycle Playground Update:* Mr. Clinton DePaolo reported that there was a meeting with the Fairfield Hills Authority to discuss the bones of the project and where it will be going. Although there was some concern about taking commercial space, there was a general support for the project and it was agreed that it would be a great addition to the campus for the kids in Newtown. Mr. Carl Samuelson said that he will be staking out markers to give a better idea of where things will be. There was an article about the project in 'Voice'.
- *Skate Park Update:* Tabled by Ms. Amy Mangold until next month's meeting.
- *Tennis Court Rentals:* after reaching out to surrounding towns, Ms. Amy Mangold was able to get an idea of how much other towns would charge for tennis court rentals. The commission decided to create a special event/ tournament fee for tennis court rentals as \$50/day per court for residents and \$100/day per court for nonresidents.
- *Cultural Arts Dog Park Mural:* After being denied to add the mural at the dog park last month, the idea was brought and explained to first selectman Dan Rosenthal, who then checked regulations, gave lots of support and approved the project. However, the project still has to be presented to The Board of Selectman this coming Monday, July 19, 2021.

New Business:

- *None*

Correspondence:

- *None*

Chairman's Report:

Clinton DePaolo, Chairman Newtown Parks and Recreation

- Mr. Clinton DePaolo said how amazing the carnival went and commented on what a great job was done on setting it up. He reported that lots of people expressed how they hope we do it again next year. Ms. RoseAnn Reggiano said that it may be done in the early spring next year.
- After the beach visit prior to the meeting, Mr. Clinton DePaolo said that the beach at Eichler's looks great and that the beach comber looks like it is working great and that it should be a great machine to keep the beach clean.
- Mr. Clinton DePaolo hopes to be putting the bathrooms in at Eichler's soon too.

Directors Report

Amy Mangold, Director of Parks and Recreation:

- Ms. Amy Mangold reported that they have begun interviews for the full time secretary position and that beginning the process of filling this position she can feel a sense of relief from all the staff in the office.
- Ms. Amy Mangold also reported that this summer has been great so far and one of the smoothest she has had since becoming director.
- Summer camp has been great and counselor training went amazing and Ms. RoseAnn Reggiano brought in Empower to help with training.
- There have been 9 Danbury children that have been able to start attending day camp through the enrichment grant.

Assistant Director's Reports:

RoseAnn Reggiano, Assistant Director of Recreation

- Ms. RoseAnn Reggiano mentioned that the Pickleball Social in May was a big success and a total of \$1,500 was raised. About 90 people attended and everyone who attended had a great time and are all looking forward to the next one.
- The carnival was a BIG success and there was a total of 3,070 wristbands were sold and \$40,172 was raised. Everyone who went had a great time and were very happy to have some normalcy back. Ms. RoseAnn Reggiano will be looking into doing a spring carnival next year. She also gave a big thank you to all the volunteers and Associated Refuse for helping the event be such a great success.
- Summer camp and programs are going great and having a high number of attendees for all programs. Jeff Tolson came back to do flag football for 3 weeks. Each week has 25-45 campers. It feels like a normal summer.
- Ms. RoseAnn Reggiano also reported that after the Rooster Run, we were able to give the Newtown Scholarship fund \$2,500, which is more than in past years.

Carl Samuelson, Assistant Director of Parks

- See attachments #1 & #2

Commissioners out and about:

- Commissioner Vincent Yanni brought up that while at a dog park in another town he saw they had a shaded and seating area and suggested having something similar would be a great addition to our park.

Motions:

- Commissioner Warren Spencer made a motion to create a special event/ tournament fee for tennis court rentals as \$50/day per court for residents and \$100/day per court for nonresidents. Commissioner Vincent Yanni seconded the motion. Everyone voted in favor.

Adjournment of Meeting: The meeting was adjourned at 7:49pm

The next regular meeting is scheduled of Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at 6:00 pm in the multi-purpose room located at 8 Simpson Street, Newtown, CT unless changed to virtual due to COVID restrictions.

Submitted by,

Victoria Weimann, Clerk



TOWN OF NEWTOWN

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

PARKS AND FIELDS REPORT

TO: Newtown Parks and Recreation Commission,
Amy Mangold, Director

FROM: Carl Samuelson, Assistant Director – Parks

DATE: July 13, 2021

RE: Monthly park update and field report

Recreational sports have mostly ended as camps and travel sports have taken over. Camp is in full swing as the weather has gone from drought conditions to too wet in a matter of ten days. This time of the year for us is primarily mowing, grooming and keeping up with daily maintenance at the parks during day camp. The guys have all completed required Hazard Communication Training as well as Forklift License renewals.

Dickinson Park: Recent storms did some tree damage here which was cleaned up. Graffiti and vandalism has been an issue here this season. We have asked the police for more patrols. Day camp here seems to be running well.

Newtown Middle School: We cleaned out the overgrown batting cage and continue regular grooming and mowing.

Orchard Hill: Recent storm damage was cleaned up here.

Lake Lillinonah: No new news here.

Oakview: Regular mowing continues here. Spring sports are done for the season here.

Tilson Field: Field repairs will be completed in coming weeks once Blue and Gold is complete.

Treadwell Soccer/Softball: Fields are in good shape. Regular grooming and mowing continues here.

Glander Fields: The dugout installation is going well. They should be completed in the next

7-10 days.

Liberty Fields: No new news here. Regular grooming, mowing continues.

Walnut Tree: The police completed the investigation into the damaged fence with no results. We have contacted vendors for cost estimates to repair the entrance gate and about 40 linear feet of fencing.

Fairfield Hills: Vandalism has been a problem here as well. Some bench plaques were removed and some dog waste bag stations were damaged. Both have been repaired along with storm damage clean up on the campus.

NHS Fields: The fields are in good shape and used by various groups all summer. Regular mowing and grooming continues here. We will be overseeding here in the coming weeks.

Sandy Hook School: These fields are open and in good shape. We are working with the BOE to get a failed irrigation pump replaced here.

Hawley School Fields: These fields are open and on the regular grooming, mowing and painting schedule.

Eichlers Cove Marina: The new beach cleaner has been working very well. Regular maintenance and normal dock repairs have kept us busy as usual.

Dog Park: New signs have been installed. The guys will be adding features here as soon as the dugouts are complete.

Treadwell Park: We sustained some lightning damage here which kept the pool closed for a day until temporary repairs were made. Permanent repairs were completed this week. The pools is looking good and is back to 100%. The park has been busy with Day Camp and other weekend functions.

Pole Bridge Preserve: No new news here

Watertown Field: These fields are open and on the regular grooming, mowing continues schedule.

Staff:

- 248 hours of vacation/sick/personal/injury/discipline hours were used out of 1672 potential work hours in the past month. This represents a 14.8% loss in workforce.