

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

The Parks and Recreation Commission held a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 in the Conference Room, 3 Main Street in Newtown, CT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ed Marks, at 6:00 pm.

Present: Edward Marks, Patrick Barczak, Maureen Crick Owen, Linda Hess, Warren Spencer, Vincent Yanni, Jr., PJ Yochum

Staff Present: Amy Mangold, Carl Samuelson

Absent: RoseAnn Reggiano

Public: Joseph Augustine, Newtown Babe Ruth Association; Andy Via, President of Newtown Babe Ruth Association; Chera Simpson, CAS Consulting; James Twitchell, Newtown Thunder Softball; Linda Zukauskas, Voices; 6+ residents.

Public Participation:

Andy Via, President of the Newtown Babe Ruth Association came before the commission to talk about the baseball fields. Mr. Via stated that the new Glander 3 field looks amazing. They haven't played on the field yet, due to rainy weather, but scheduled to have some practices on the field in the next week. The biggest concern that Babe Ruth currently has, is with the Sandy Hook School Field and not being able to use the field. Currently the 8 year old players are playing on the Hawley II Field. Mr. Via suggested not putting any money into Hawley II or letting players play on it anymore, because it's dangerous. Mr. Via understands that there is a grading issue with the field at Sandy Hook School and wants to know why they can't use the field while waiting for the repair and/or how long will it take to repair? Mr. Via is asking the commission for help to get this corrected. Mr. Joseph Augustine also with Babe Ruth Association stated that he went to look at the field at Sandy Hook School and sees that there is a bit of a grade issue, but for the children that will be playing on it, they could play around these issues. Mr. Augustine is requesting that the players be able to play on the field this fall or definitely by the spring of 2018. Mr. Samuelson stated that he is trying to get the company that installed the field to come back and fix it. The company has already fixed one of the concerns and now just waiting for them to fix the grading issue. The project had been signed off on by Public Building and Site without P&R being able to speak to them about the quality of the playing fields. One of the issues was that there were 2 large back to back rain events that washed away a lot of the top soil. According to Mr. Samuelson the trouble was that the top soil was replaced, but not correctly. Mr. Samuelson feels that they are close to a resolution. Mr. Via is concerned that if it's not resolved this fall it will prolong the planting and the use of fields this fall and next spring. Mr. Samuelson is confident that the issue will be resolved. Mr. Via also explained to the commission that Babe Ruth was having a meeting tonight and voting on one of 3 options on finishing up the Glander 3 project. The first option is the whole package: demolition of batting cages and old shed, construction of new shed in outfield, which is close to \$100,000.00. Option 2: Just shed. Option 3: no projects.

Chera Simpson owner of CAS Consulting came before the commission to talk about ADA compliance. Ms. Simpson is an advocacy consultant for the disabled. Ms. Simpson has volunteered for LOF but has made it clear that she is not representing LOF. Ms. Simpson states that she has received many complaints regarding issues with boating and inaccessibility at parks. Ms. Simpson stated that anyone from the general public can ask for reasonable accommodation. Under the law, if there is one for the greater

good then there needs to be one for the disabled. Ms. Simpson states that Currently there is not a boating accessible park for the disabled in Newtown. Ms. Simpson explained to the commission that anyone that is denied access because of a disability has the right to file a grievance, which then can be elevated to the Justice Department. Ms. Simpson stated that, unfortunately the town seems to have a lack of education when it comes to ADA compliance. Ms. Simpson explained that she will be filing a grievance with the grievance committee tomorrow on behalf of the public. Ms. Simpson wants to work with people to facilitate a positive outcome for all. Mr. Marks suggested that: 1) while the commission reviews the CIP and 5 year project plan that they share with the BOF and BOS on how Parks and Recreation plans to address this and the costs associated. 2) Follow up with the consultant firm that P&R met with to discuss renovation of Eichler's Cove to see if and how to make Eichler's Cove ADA compliant. 3) Recommend that the town talk to the town attorney to make sure the town is doing everything possible to address this.

Lorraine Gibbons a resident of Bridge End Farm Lane was representing the neighborhood in regards to LOF operating a business in the neighborhood and the concerns of what the LOF events have done to the ballfield. Ms. Gibbons stated the she herself as well as many of the neighbors have volunteered for LOF and have a great appreciation for the organization and what they do. She is however, concerned with a business running out of a private residential neighborhood.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion

Commissioner Linda Hess made a motion to accept the Minutes from the June 13, 2017 Commission Meeting. Commissioner Patrick Barczak seconded the motion.

- A correction was made under *Director's Report; Carl Samuelson, Assistant Director of Parks:* Under the 3rd bullet the sentence should read: Mr. Samuelson and Mrs. Mangold have been meeting with Leaps of Faith and continue discussions regarding their possible lease with the BOS.

All voted in favor of the amended minutes.

Commissioner Maureen Crick Owen made a motion to accept the Minutes from the July 11, 2017 commission meeting. Commissioner PJ Yochum seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Old Business:

- *Community Center:*
Mr. Marks distributed a copy of the *Newtown Community Center Advisory Council Organizational Reporting Structure Options* from the BOS meeting that was held on Tuesday, September 5, 2017. Mr. Marks started the discussion regarding the Community Center by reading the motions that were presented at the BOS and discussed the results of those motions. The BOS voted on the management structure of the Community Center as well as Space allocation of office space. The management structure is a hybrid (stand alone and shared staff); Independent P&R Commission; Independent Community Center Commission; P&R Director, with Parks Assistant Director and Recreation Assistant Director; Community Center Director; and shared support staff. The Community Center Advisory has a meeting Wednesday, September 13, 2017. Ms. Owen Crick Owen stated that the committee will continue to work on fundraising, communications, ground breaking, hiring of the director, formation of the Community Center (description, roles and responsibilities), and business plan. Mr. Marks inquired if P&R still

need to get updates from the Advisory Committee, except for informational purposes and what involvement is required of Ms. Mangold at this time. Ms. Mangold stated that she strongly feels that hiring an Executive Director without knowing the costs of doing this and expecting this person to run a facility that will generate revenue is a mistake and a disservice to our community. Ms. Mangold strongly believes that the current P&R staff with additional staff could manage the Community Center successfully. She feels we are the Community and it should be run by a focused department community and not an independent person.

- **CIP:**

Mr. Marks distributed a copy of the *Town Of Newtown 2018-19 to 2022-23 CIP BOS Department Requests*. The Commission reviewed the current items in the draft BOS plan.

○ 2018/19	Eichler's Cove Improvements phase 2 of 2	\$500,000
○ 2019/20	Tilson Artificial Turf Replacement	\$500,000
○ 2019/20	Fairfield Hills Trail/Infrastructure	\$500,000
○ 2020/21	Dickinson Park Pavilion Replacement	\$450,000
○ 2021/22	Dickinson Park Bathhouse & Programming	\$850,000
○ 2021/22	Duplex Remediation for P&R Use & Prog	\$800,000
○ 2022/23	Maintenance Yard Improvements	<u>\$670,000</u>
Total:		\$4,270,000

Motion:

Commissioner Pat Barczak made a motion to approve CIP submissions totaling \$4,270,000.00 for the next five years starting 2018-2019. Commissioner Vincent Yanni, Jr. seconded the motion.

Commissioners: Ed Marks, Pat Barczak, Linda Hess, Warren Spencer, Vincent Yanni voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Maureen Crick Owen and PJ Yochum had left the meeting early and unavailable to vote.

New Business:

P&R Long Term Project List – Fall 2017:

Mr. Marks requested that the commission prioritize a long-term project list, which he distributed the results at the meeting.

Additional CIP requests not shown in Draft BOS Plan for FY 2018/2023 as discussed:

○ 2023/24	Pickle Ball Courts at FFH Campus	\$300,000
○ 2024/25	Teen Center Renovation	\$465,000
○ 2024/25	Treadwell Artificial Turf Replacement	\$550,000
○ 2025/26	Lake Lillinonah Park Improvements	\$500,000
○ 2025/26	Fairfield Hills Field Plan Phase 1	\$1,000,000
○ 2026/27	Treadwell Park Improvements	\$1,000,000
○ 2027/28	Rail Trail – Batchelder Park	<u>\$1,400,000</u>
Total:		\$5,215,000

Mr. Marks will revise the results of the extended project report, when all commissioners turn in their lists. The commission will continue to discuss projects lists and costs going forward.

- **Surcharge/Gift Fund Account:** Tabled until next month's meeting.
- **Parks and Recreation Gift Fund Account:** Tabled until next month's meeting.

Correspondence:

- The P&R staff received an email thanking the staff for being so nice to process car permits so quickly and for providing information on the P&R summer concerts at Dickinson Park. "The Marybeth Sippin and the Goldrush Band's easy listening country style made for an extremely enjoyable evening at Dickinson Park...!"
- Jim Twitchell with the Newtown Thunder Softball sent an email regarding starting a new smaller developmental team. This team would be called the Little Thunders under the Thunder Softball Organization and insurance. There will be no tryouts. It is a developmental group, teaching players what a glove, ball and bat are; and teaching basic softball skills. There will be an adult coach and young volunteers.
- The Newtown Volunteer Ambulance Association addressed a Thank You letter to: Parks and Recreation, Chamber of Commerce and Newtown Youth Academy. The letter was thanking the departments for the generous donation of \$300.00 from money that was raised at the Food Truck Event.

Director's Report

RoseAnn Reaggiano, Assistant Director of Recreation:

See attachment

- The Fall Carnival will be held at Fairfield Hills Campus on October 20th thru October 22nd. The Carnival will be set up on the greenway and road by the fence that runs along Wasserman Way Road. Erin Masotta is busy getting sponsors and helping with setting up the volunteers.
- Amy Krompinger has completed a new organization request for facility allocation for Fall 2018. Ms. Krompinger is working towards starting a new Field Hockey League in Newtown.

Carl Samuelson, Assistant Director of Parks:

- Mr. Samuelson stated that the field project behind the Newtown Middle School has been completed.
- Glander 3 is open and ready to go. There are just small items that need to be addressed.
- Liberty Field project is currently being worked on.
- The paving of Treadwell Park parking lot is complete. There are now 295 marked parking spots up from 221 spots.
- Mr. Samuelson stated that originally he requested money out of surcharge for Glander 3 project, in anticipation of sports groups contribution. The commission approved \$10,000.00 and \$12,000.00+ was spent. The commission also made an agreement with Babe Ruth Baseball and Softball, that they would each contribute \$10,000.00. At the time of meeting, it was unsure if Babe Ruth Baseball and Softball paid? Mr. Samuelson needs \$20,000.00 to complete the project. The commission wants to wait to see if the organizations have paid towards this project before making a motion to approve \$20,000.00 from surcharge. In the meantime, the commission did make a motion to approve the additional money to complete the Glander 3 project over and above the \$10,000.00

Motion:

Commissioners Vincent Yanni, Jr. made a motion to approve to use up to \$2,500.00 from surcharge to cover the costs that are needed to complete the Glander 3 project. Commissioner Patrick Barczak seconded the motion. Commissioners: Ed Marks, Pat Barczak, Linda Hess, Warren Spencer, Vincent Yanni voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Maureen Crick Owen and PJ Yochum had left the meeting early and unavailable to vote.

Commissioners out and about:

Commissioner Vincent Yanni, Jr. visited the other marina on Lake Zoar next to Eichler's Cove. Mr. Yanni noticed that the marina was able to fit 4 jet skis per dock slip. Mr. Yanni was inquiring if this was something we could do at Eichler's Cove?

Motion:

Commissioner Vincent Yanni, Jr. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 pm. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Warren Spencer, which was carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at 6:00 pm in the Conference Room located at 3 Main Street, Newtown, CT.

Submitted by,

Gabriella Chernoff, clerk

**TOWN HALL SOUTH
3 MAIN STREET
NEWTOWN, CT 06470
TEL. (203) 270-4340
FAX (203) 270-4333
www.newtown-ct.gov**



**RoseAnn Reggiano
Assistant Director Recreation**

TOWN OF NEWTOWN

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

www.newtown-ct.gov

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

FROM: Rose Ann Reggiano, Assistant Director – Recreation

DATE: September 12, 2017

RE: Monthly Report

Mad Dash we raised \$2,601.31 for our camp scholarship.

Very Busy Summer:

Day camp was amazing again this summer. A Few highlights of our Day Camp: Our new site director at Treadwell day camp brought a lot of enthusiasm to the camp, including color wars and incorporation the game stratego live with the campers. Dickinson day camp included this year street hockey for the older campers, they loved it!

Camp numbers have increased again this year, Dickinson up 92 campers and Treadwell up 36 campers over last year.

All of the staff did an awesome job!

All other summer camp programs went well. A lot of happy campers.

Movie nights were great and a big thank you to Erin Masotta for organizing it. People loved it and want more. We sold 110 bags of popcorn. Next year we are looking to get a sponsor for the movie nights.

Also Thank you to Erin Masotta for once again setting and organizing our summer jam concert series.

For being a loyal client of Quassy Amusement park, we will have a Newtown weekend. Newtown day will be 9/30 and 10/1. Cost will be \$5 per resident or town employees.

Halloween Parties:

Wednesday, October 25th 8 years and under party at Fairfield Hills Pavilion from 5 – 6:15 pm. We are asking all participants to bring a bag of candy for Main Street.

Friday, October 27th, Grade 5 and 6 party at the Teen Center.

Saturday, October 28th, Howl O Ween dog party at Dog Park.

We are hosting another Family Paint Night on Wednesday, October 4th from 6 – 7 pm at Middle School. \$28 per canvas with \$10 going to our camp scholarship.

Basketball Turkey Toss is Friday, November 3rd at Middle School. \$10 per team all proceeds go to camp scholarship.

Breakfast with Santa, Saturday, December 2nd at Middle School 9 – 11 am. Asking for a donation for food pantry.

Fall Brochure is out

New event this fall is our fall festival/carnival.

Friday, October 20th, Saturday, October 21st, and Sunday, October 22nd. We are working with Robert Connor.

All proceeds from this event will go to the Park Gift Fund.

We are looking for volunteers to help us man the ticket booth, assist with putting on bracelets after purchased, volunteer coordinator, clean-up crew for each night, monitor garbage/recycling overflow, monitor port o lets stations(TP/Towels/Soap or whatever is needed).