



Incorporated 1787

Parks & Recreation Commission

**REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
MONDAY DECEMBER 14, 2009
7:30 P.M.**

**WESTON TOWN HALL
DAUGHERTY COMMISSION ROOM**

David C. Juneau
Chairman
Committees:
Administrative,
Fields

Carlos Mello
Vice Chairman
Committee:
Aquatics

Eric Albert
Secretary
Committee:
Administrative

Nancy Babyak
Commissioner
Committee:
Programs

Carl Bernstein
Commissioner
Committees:
Fields, Parks

Marc Butlein
Commissioner
Committee:
Programs

Robert A. Uzenoff
Commissioner
Committee:

Official action of the commission in these minutes is indicated by underlining.

The Weston Parks and Recreation Commission (WPRC) held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, December 14, 2009 at Weston Town Hall. Commissioners present: Eric Albert, Carl Bernstein, Marc Butlein, David Juneau and Robert Uzenoff. Carlos Mello joined the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Commissioners absent: Nancy Babyak. Staff present: Weston Parks and Recreation (P&R) Director David Ungar. Public present: Joe Cina, John Clevenger, Mike Demattio, P.J. Dodge, Doug Seymour and Brandt Zembsch.

- 1) Call to order: Mr. Juneau called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.
- 2) Approval of minutes. Minutes of the November 9, 2009 meeting were approved with no corrections. For: Albert, Bernstein, Butlein, Juneau, Mello and Uzenoff. Against: None. Abstain: None
- 3) Public Forum (occurred prior to item 2 above):
 - a) John Clevenger, Joe Cina and Mike Demattio regarding Weston Little League (WLL) request for diamond work at Bisceglie Scribner Park (BSP) Fields. Messrs. Clevenger, Cina and Demattio described the deteriorating conditions of the infields at all three BSP diamonds, indicating that the fields are becoming unplayable following rain. Problems include poor drainage, insoluble clay and decreased crowning on the infields. They reported that the problems rest primarily with the infields, as the outfields appear to

drain well. WLL requested that WPRC contribute funds towards the repair/improvement of the fields.

- i) There was a discussion about the approximate cost of repairing the three BSP infields. Mr. Ungar received an estimate from Stecks for \$6735 per infield, which would include certain repairs, but not replacement of each infield. There was a discussion about whether this estimate included sufficient repair work. WLL estimated that replacement of the infields could cost in excess of \$10,000 per infield.
 - ii) Mr. Bernstein inquired whether WLL could contribute to the cost of the BSP infield repairs/replacement. In response, Mr. Clevenger indicated that WLL does not currently have funds to contribute, but going forward, he would raise the issue with the WLL Board about increasing little league registration fees to establish a fund for sharing in the cost of field repairs.
 - iii) Mr. Juneau indicated that the new budget year commences as of July 1, 2010, so monies earmarked for BSP field repairs, if any, would not be available until after July 1. WLL was hoping that any such repairs could commence before the Spring 2010 little league season (i.e., April 2010).
 - iv) Mr. Bernstein inquired whether there were any warranties that came with the field installation. The consensus was that the fields were properly installed, and the drainage issues related in large measure to the overall elevation of the field settling and maintenance of the field.
 - v) The Commission decided to review these issues as part of their 2010-11 budget discussion and also planned to set up a meeting between representatives of WLL and the Commission's Fields Committee to further explore options, including a review of the current Steck's maintenance contract.
- b) Doug Seymour and Brandt Zembsch from the Diamond Club regarding Revson Field conditions. Mr. Seymour and Mr. Zembsch appeared before the Commission to discuss the very poor conditions of the two baseball diamonds on Revson Field. According to Mr. Seymour, despite previous efforts to improve the fields, the playing conditions remain very poor and at times, unplayable. Mr. Seymour asked whether the Commission could contribute funds for further field repairs.
- i) Mr. Ungar indicated that Steck's quoted a cost of \$12,000 per field for infield repairs. There was a discussion about whether this estimate included sufficient repair work. A replacement of the infields could cost upwards of \$20,000 each.

- ii) Mr. Butlein inquired whether the Diamond Club had any recent discussions with either the Board of Education or the Town Building Committee regarding the shape of Revson. Mr. Seymour indicated that he had not had such discussions.
 - iii) Mr. Mello stated that the Commission should consider a capital improvement plan for all town ballfields, including but not limited to Revson and BSP
 - iv) As with the BSP Fields issues, the Commission decided to review these issues as part of their 2010-11 budget discussion and also planned to set up a meeting between representatives of the Diamond Club and the Commission's Fields Committee to further explore options, including a review of the current Steck's maintenance contract.
- 4) Unfinished Business
- a) Action item follow-up.
 - i) 2009-21 – Mr. Bernstein spoke with the Southport Racquet Club (SRC) regarding discounted rates for seniors during certain parts of the day. SRC was unwilling to offer such reduced rates. This item is now closed. See Action Item 2009-22 for further research into adult fitness for Weston residents.
 - ii) 2009-22 – Mr. Mello has not yet had the opportunity to contact the Weston Commission on Aging regarding adult fitness in Weston. Mr. Mello will provide an update at the next Commission meeting.
 - iii) 2009-23 – Mr. Uzenoff confirmed that Dr. Dest's field assessment report has been provided to the Board of Education. This item is now closed.
 - b) Other unfinished business
 - i) The Commission decided to adjourn its discussion of a possible "customer satisfaction" survey until its January 2010 meeting, although there was discussion of the Planning & Zoning Commission's recent town survey, which encompassed issues of interest to WPRC.
- 5) Reports of standing committees and resulting motions (occurred after item 6 below):
- a) Administrative Committee (Mr. Juneau).
 - i) Mr. Juneau announced that he appointed Mr. Albert to act as the secretary for the Commission for the upcoming year.
 - ii) Mr. Juneau announced that the Board of Selectmen had appointed Ms. Dodge to a four-year term on the WPRC beginning as of January 1, 2010, and welcomed Ms. Dodge who

was in attendance. In addition, Messrs. Albert, Juneau and Uzenoff were reappointed to the WPRC by the Board of Selectmen for new four-year terms beginning as of January 1, 2010.

- b) Aquatics Committee (Mr. Mello). No updates.
 - c) Fields Committee (Messrs. Bernstein and Juneau)
 - i) See Public Forum above regarding discussions of BSP and Revson ballfields.
 - d) Programs Committee (Ms. Babyak and Mr. Butlein)
 - i) See Other Unfinished Business above regarding adjourning discussion of a possible “customer satisfaction” survey to January 2010 meeting.
 - ii) Mr. Albert indicated that he would like the Commission to consider an automated program sign-up system, including payment of fees by credit card, in part in response to concerns raised recently about sign-up procedures for the Middle School ski trips. It was decided that this issue would be discussed at the Commission’s January 2010 meeting.
 - e) Parks Committee (Mr. Bernstein). No updates.
- 6) New Business
- a) Little League request for BSP diamond work – see Public Forum Above
 - b) Doug Seymour of Diamond Club re. Revson Field condition – see Public Forum Above
 - c) Election of Officers for 2010
 - i) Mr. Bernstein moved to elect Mr. Juneau to serve as Chairman of WPRC for 2010. Seconded by Mr. Mello. All in favor 6-0. Mr. Juneau elected as Chairman for 2010.
 - ii) Mr. Uzenoff moved to elect Mr. Bernstein to serve as Vice Chairman of WPRC for 2010. Seconded by Mr. Albert. All in favor 6-0. Mr. Bernstein elected Vice Chairman for 2010.
 - d) Setting of meeting dates for 2010
 - i) The Commission agreed to continue to hold its regularly-scheduled meetings on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m., with the exception of holiday conflicts. The meeting schedule was proposed as follows: January 11, 2010; February 8, 2010; March 8, 2010; April 12, 2010; May 10, 2010; June 14, 2010; July 12, 2010; August 9, 2010; September 13, 2010; October 4, 2010; November 8, 2010; December 13, 2010; and January 10, 2011.

- ii) Mr. Mello moved to adopt the proposed meeting schedule. Seconded by Mr. Albert. All in favor 6-0. The proposed WPRC 2010 meeting schedule was adopted.
- e) 2010-2011 budget discussion
 - i) Mr. Ungar distributed copies of the proposed Parks & Recreation 2010-11 budget and informed the Commission that the Town had asked for a 0% budget increase over the 2009-10 budget. See attached.
 - ii) The proposed Parks & Recreation operating budget has a -1.9% change from the 2009-10 budget, which includes a proposed 0% change in the administration account, a proposed 1.0% change in the grounds account and a proposed -9.5% change in the pool account. Mr. Bernstein moved to approve the proposed operating budget. Seconded by Mr. Butlein. All in favor 6-0. The proposed 2010-11 Parks & Recreation operating budget was approved.
 - iii) There was a discussion about the proposed Parks & Recreation capital improvement budget for 2010-11 and the 10-year capital improvement budget projection.
 - (1) Mr. Butlein inquired whether the sealing of the high school track item should reside on the Board of Education's budget rather than Parks & Recreation. The Commission agreed that this was a vitally important item and that lines of communication should be opened between WPRC and the Board of Education. Mr. Juneau agreed to discuss this issue with the Chairman of the Board of Education.
 - (2) A discussion ensued regarding funds in the capital improvement budget for major repairs for the town's ballfields, including most specifically BSP and Revson. Mr. Mello suggested that the 10-year capital improvement budget projections should include funds each year for repairs/renovations at the town ballfields, beginning with BSP and Revson. The Commission agreed with this idea and Mr. Ungar indicated he would update the 10-year projection accordingly.
 - (3) The Commission discussed the Town's enterprise fund as it relates to Parks & Recreation, including significant items such as operating the BSP pond and the July 4th fireworks.
 - (4) After the Commission's discussion, the 2010-11 Parks & Recreation capital improvement budget was proposed as follows: Priority 1- Turf Replacement Fund \$20,000; Priority 2- Revson Infield Replacement \$20,000; Priority 3- BSP #1 Infield Replacement \$10,000; Priority 4- Seal High

School Track \$55,000. The proposed Parks & Recreation 10-year capital improvement budget is reflected on the attached. Mr. Bernstein moved to approve the proposed 2010-11 capital improvement budget and projected 10-year capital improvement budget. Seconded by Mr. Butlein. All in favor 6-0. The proposed 2010-11 Parks & Recreation capital improvement budget and projected 10-year capital improvement budget was approved.

- 7) Correspondence – Mr. Juneau indicated that he received additional correspondence from out-of-town soccer clubs seeking to rent the turf fields in the Spring. Mr. Juneau also indicated that he had received correspondence from Joe Cina of WLL in advance of their appearance at this evening's meeting.
- 8) Announcements, remarks for the good of the order.
 - a) Mr. Juneau thanked the Commission for a good year and extended best wishes for 2010.
 - b) Mr. Juneau referred to an article he had circulated to the Commission regarding adult fitness options at local YMCAs.
- 9) Adjournment: The commission adjourned at 10:59 p.m., Butlein/Juneau motion and second. All in favor 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Albert

ACTION ITEMS

- 2009-17 Opened on 9/14/09, Mr. Ungar will have a rain sensor installed at MFP in order to regulate the irrigation system. Decision as of October 5, 2009: Deferred until Spring 2010 due to scheduling and needless wear and tear during winter to sensor.
- 2009-19 Opened on 10/5/09, Carlos Mello will get data on Weston residents utilizing the Westport Senior Center. Completed and closed 11/9/09. See also Action items 2009-21 and 2009-22 for more research on the topic of adult recreation.
- 2009-20 Opened on 10/5/09, Carl Bernstein will contact Cory Attra regarding Mr. Attra's decision to only endorse installing a concrete foundation for BSP playground gazebo. As of November 9, 2009 this item is cancelled due to WPP pursuing other options. This item is now closed.
- 2009-21 Opened on 11/9/09, Mr. Bernstein will look into Southport Racquet Club's (SRC) willingness to host Weston adults for non-peak gym time at favorable prices. Completed and closed December 14, 2009. SRC unwilling to offer reduced rates.
- 2009-22 Opened on 11/9/09, Mr. Mello will pursue the idea of adult fitness with both the United Way and the Weston Commission on Aging.
- 2009-23 Opened on 11/9/09, Mr. Uzenoff will follow up with David Ungar to see if Dr. William Dest's recent ball field assessment has been forwarded to the Board of Education. Completed and closed as of December 14, 2009. The Board of Education has a copy of Dr. Dest's report.
- 2009-24 Opened on 12/14/09, the Fields Committee will meet with Weston Little League and the Diamond Club to further discuss BSP and Revson ballfield options and to review the current Steck's maintenance contract.