



Incorporated 1787

Parks & Recreation Commission

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 13, 2011**

**7:30 P.M.**

**WESTON LIBRARY  
COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM**

Eric Albert  
*Chairman*  
Committees:  
Administrative,  
Programs

Robert Uzenoff  
*Vice Chairman*  
Committee:  
Administrative

Carl Bernstein  
*Commissioner*  
Committees:  
Fields, Parks

Marc Butlein  
*Commissioner*  
Committee:  
Programs

Vacant  
*Commissioner*  
Committee:

David Juneau  
*Commissioner*  
Committee:  
Fields

Carlos Mello  
*Commissioner*  
Committee:  
Aquatics

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

The Weston Parks and Recreation Commission (WPRC) held a special meeting on Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at Weston Library. Commissioners present: Eric Albert, Carl Bernstein, David Juneau, Carlos Mello and Bob Uzenoff. Commissioner absent: Marc Butlein. Staff present: David Ungar. Public present: Mark Arotsky (Connecticut Lasers); Dawn Egan; Jed Ferdinand.

- 1) Call to order: Mr. Albert called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.
- 2) Approval of Minutes. Minutes of the March 14, 2011 meeting were approved. For: Albert, Bernstein, Juneau and Uzenoff. Against: None.
- 3) Public Forum.
  - a) See Item 6(a) below.
  - b) Request from Full Court Peace.
    - i) Mr. Ungar reported that Full Court Peace, a non-profit organization run by former Westonite Michael Evans, was planning a 3-on-3 basketball tournament as a fundraiser. They are hoping to have the event on June 4-5 at the Weston High School gyms and are seeking P&R sponsorship so they don't have to procure their own insurance policy for the event and don't have to pay rental fees for the gym space.

- ii) The Commission agreed that the organization was worthy but had a number of unresolved questions since neither Mr. Evans nor another representative of Full Court Peace was able to attend the meeting. Mr. Uzenoff suggested that the Commission should see more information on how many Westonites would be participating in the fundraiser. The Commission also had questions relating to insurance. As a result, a decision was deferred until WPRC's May meeting, at which time Mr. Evans or his designee can appear to respond to the open questions. Mr. Ungar will speak with Mr. Evans in the interim to try to get answers to the Commission's questions.
- 4) Unfinished Business
- a) Review of Action Items Due from March 14, 2011 Meeting.
    - i) 2010-12 – The Commission reviewed the data and considered whether to charge a usage fee this coming summer at BSP Pond. See Item 6(c) below. This Item is now closed.
  - b) Other Unfinished Business.
    - i) RecTrack: Mr. Ungar indicated that P&R is still planning for purchase of and training on the RecTrack registration software in May. Mr. Ungar indicated that the Board of Education may also be interested in purchasing RecTrack software for its own facilities scheduling, so this is being discussed with Sharon Shattuck. The goal is still to have the software fully operational for Fall 2011 P&R program sign-ups.
    - ii) Bisceglie Scribner Park Baseball Shed: Mr. Albert reported that Weston Little League (“WLL”) had provided the detailed information requested by the Commission at the March meeting and that, to Mr. Albert's understanding, WLL now had approvals from the conservation planner and the building inspector. The matter is on the Board of Selectmen's agenda tomorrow night for approval of WLL's gift of a storage shed between Bisceglie Field 2 and Field 3.
    - iii) Revson Field Repairs: Mr. Ungar is working with Tom Landry on the specs for contractor bidding on the Revson repair project. Mr. Ungar stated that the time frame is for bids to be due by the end of May so the project can start soon after the Fourth of July. The Commission expressed an interest in inviting the bidders to the June P&R meeting. Mr. Ungar will provide the Commission with a further update at its May meeting.
    - iv) Budget Process: Mr. Albert reported to the Commission that the Board of Finance removed P&R's request for a new tractor from the capital budget. The other capital items and the

operating budget remain unchanged. The paper ballot budget vote is scheduled for tomorrow.

5) Reports of Standing Committees and Resulting Motions.

a) Administrative Committee (Messrs. Albert and Uzenoff).

i) Mr. Albert informed the Commission that he received notice earlier today that Mr. Mello was resigning from WPRC effective immediately upon the selection of a replacement by the RTC. Replacements for Mr. Mello and P.J. Dodge have been made by the RTC and DTC, respectively, and the hope is that both nominees will be approved by the Board of Selectmen soon so that WPRC will have a full complement of seven members at its next regular meeting.

b) Aquatics Committee (Mr. Mello).

i) Mr. Ungar reported that the Middle School pool is functioning well. There was a minor heating issue, but it was handled internally by the Board of Education's new HVAC specialist.

c) Fields Committee (Messrs. Bernstein and Juneau).

i) Mr. Albert informed the Commission of complaints of dogs on BSP baseball fields and Morehouse soccer fields, against field regulations. Mr. Albert requested that Mr. Ungar speak with WLL and Weston Soccer to remind them of the rules concerning dogs on the fields.

d) Programs Committee (Messrs. Albert and Butlein).

i) Mr. Ungar stated that the spring programs are running well and are well subscribed. Summer camp sign-ups are approaching.

e) Parks Committee (Mr. Bernstein).

i) Mr. Ungar stated that all Town parks are open and survived the winter very well.

6) New Business.

a) Request for Approval of a Laser Light Show for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

i) Mr. Arotsky and Ms. Egan appeared before the Commission to seek approval of a laser light show in connection with the Town's Fourth of July festivities. The show would be donated; there would be no costs to P&R or the Town. Mr. Arotsky stated that he is the head of Connecticut Lasers ("CL"), which has existed since 2005 and is fully licensed and certified. CL has conducted laser shows in many nearby locations. Mr. Arotsky said that there is no danger involved with the show. The plan would be to have a short (approximately 10-minute) laser show just before the fireworks begin, and then an

additional laser show after the conclusion of the fireworks. Logos of any fireworks sponsors could be included in the laser show. Mr. Arotzky also indicated that he would provide the requisite FAA notice.

- ii) Mr. Ungar indicated to the Commission that he checked with Police Chief Troxell, who informed him that no additional permits are required for the laser show since it is a ground-level show.
  - iii) In response to an inquiry from the Commission, Mr. Arotzky stated that CL is insured and that its insurance policy would list the Town/P&R as an additional insured. Ms. Egan indicated that this is similar to what Stewart Amusement does in terms of its insurance for the Memorial Day fair.
  - iv) The Commission was fully supportive and Mr. Uzenoff made a motion to accept the gift of a laser light show from Connecticut Lasers as part of the Fourth of July festivities. Seconded by Mr. Juneau. For: Albert, Bernstein, Juneau, Mello and Uzenoff. Against: None. Motion passes 5-0.
- b) Weston Park Project's Final Project Discussion.
- i) Mr. Albert informed the Commission that Weston Park Project ("WPP") is winding down their operations and has approximately \$11,000 remaining to distribute for a final project at Bisceglie Scribner Park. Following a discussion with Mr. Ungar, a recommendation was made that WPP consider donating the funds for use in fixing the walking trail at BSP. WPP was supportive of the idea. Mr. Ungar is in the process of getting estimates for this work, which would include adding processed stone and/or other materials to improve the footing on the walking trail. No heavy machinery would be involved. Mr. Bernstein made a motion to accept the offer of Weston Park Project to provide funds towards improving the Kiwanis fitness trail at BSP with Mr. Ungar to handle the details administratively. Seconded by Mr. Uzenoff. For: Albert, Bernstein, Juneau, Mello and Uzenoff. Against: None. Motion passes 5-0.
- c) Bisceglie Pond Usage Fee Discussion.
- i) The Commission discussed whether to charge a fee for users of the BSP pond during the 2011 summer. Data previously provided to the Commission indicated that pond usage was sharply lower last year (when a fee was charged) as compared with the prior two years when no usage fee was charged. The revenue generated by the usage fee was only approximately \$5,000 last year. The Commission recognized that it was not

clear whether there is a correlation between the usage fee and the declining number of users.

- ii) Mr. Bernstein made a motion that no usage fees be charged for BSP Pond for the 2011 summer. Seconded by Mr. Albert. For: Albert, Bernstein, Juneau and Mello. Against: Uzenoff. Motion passes 4-1.
- 7) Correspondence: None.
- 8) Announcements, Remarks for the Good of the Order.
  - i) The Commission and Mr. Ungar thanked Mr. Mello for his years of service to WPRC. Everyone agreed that Mr. Mello has been a tremendous asset to the Commission and will be missed.
- 9) Adjournment: The Commission adjourned at 9:03 p.m., Bernstein/Juneau motion and second. All in favor 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Albert

## OPEN ACTION ITEMS

2010-12    Opened on 10/4/10. Mr. Ungar prepared a three-year cost per participant report for Bisceglie-Scribner Pond. The Commission considered the information and decided not to charge a BSP Pond usage fee for Summer 2011. This Item is now closed.