



Incorporated 1787

Parks & Recreation Commission

**REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
MONDAY JULY 12, 2010  
7:30 P.M.**

**WESTON TOWN HALL  
DAUGHERTY COMMISSION ROOM**

David C. Juneau  
*Chairman*  
Committees:  
Administrative,  
Fields

Carl Bernstein  
*Vice Chairman*  
Committees:  
Fields, Parks

Eric Albert  
*Secretary*  
Committees:  
Administrative,  
Programs

Marc Butlein  
*Commissioner*  
Committee:  
Programs

P.J. Dodge  
*Commissioner*  
Committee:  
Fields

Carlos Mello  
*Commissioner*  
Committee:  
Aquatics

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, July 12, 2010 at Weston Town Hall. Commissioners present: Eric Albert, Carl Bernstein, P.J. Dodge, David Juneau, Carlos Mello and Robert Uzenoff. Marc Butlein joined the meeting at 7:37 p.m. Commissioners absent: None. Staff present: Weston Parks and Recreation (P&R) Director David Ungar. Public present: None.

- 1) Call to order: Mr. Juneau called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.
- 2) Approval of Minutes. Minutes of the June 14, 2010 meeting were approved as corrected. For: Albert, Bernstein, Butlein, Dodge, Juneau, Mello and Uzenoff. Against: None.
- 3) Public Forum: None.
- 4) Unfinished Business
  - a) Review of Action Items Due from June 14, 2010 Meeting.
    - i) 2010-02 – The 10-year proposed P&R capital plan was finalized at the June meeting. The Commission further discussed the issue of whether the Board of Education (BOE) should be responsible for introducing certain items as proposed capital items. Mr. Butlein specifically referenced the pool filtration line item on the P&R 10-year capital plan. Mr. Mello stated that it was important to push the BOE to support all school-related capital items and that the issue would be raised at the

next joint meeting with the BOE's facilities subcommittee, but that it also made sense to keep such items in the P&R's long-term capital plan. The Commission decided that during the upcoming non-budget season, it would commence discussions with the Town's capital planning committee. Mr. Mello and Mr. Ungar will schedule a meeting with the Town's Capital Planning Committee to discuss the P&R 10-year capital plan.

- ii) 2010-04 – This item is ongoing.
  - iii) 2010-07– See discussion at Item 6(a) below.
  - iv) 2010-08 – This item is ongoing.
- b) Other Unfinished Business.
- i) Following the discussion at the June 2010 meeting regarding youth lacrosse programming, Mr. Ungar has had limited email correspondence with Progression Lacrosse, who requested rental of the Stadium Field for one date in July. The issue is still in process.
- 5) Reports of Standing Committees and Resulting Motions.
- a) Administrative Committee (Messrs. Juneau and Albert).
    - i) No items to report.
  - b) Aquatics Committee (Mr. Mello).
    - i) Mr. Ungar reported that usage at Bisceglie Pond was marginal to date – 195 unique participants and 48 family passes. These numbers are significantly down from the prior few years. Mr. Ungar further reported that the pond is functioning exceptionally well thus far, as water clarity is as good as he's ever seen it.
    - ii) Mr. Butlein suggested that Mr. Ungar informally survey past users of the Pond to try to get a sense of why they are not using the facility this summer.
    - iii) With regard to the Middle School Pool, Mr. Ungar reported that a filter pump failed last Thursday, but the problem was quickly repaired so the pool was only closed for about ½ a day.
  - c) Fields Committee (Messrs. Bernstein and Juneau and Ms. Dodge).
    - i) Mr. Ungar reported that field irrigation is going well. As a result of a storm strike, the irrigation system at the Bisceglie fields was down for a few days recently, but it has since been repaired and is now fully operational.
    - ii) Mr. Ungar stated that he received four bids for the Bisceglie Field 1 repair project and reported that the project was being awarded to the lowest bidder, MVP Aqua Turf, for \$9700. Mr.

Ungar expressed confidence in MVP Aqua Turf as they have successfully completed other projects in the past both in Weston and in other surrounding towns. The work is to be completed in August so the field will be available and playable for the start of Fall baseball in September.

- iii) Mr. Ungar informed the Commission that the plan is for Dr. Dest to conduct an updated study of the town fields and provide a written report to the Commission in the Fall. Mr. Ungar will inform the Commission in advance of Dr. Dest's visit in the event that any Commissioners would like to attend.
- d) Programs Committee (Messrs. Albert and Butlein).
  - i) Mr. Ungar provided the Commission with an updated program report, although there are a lot of pending numbers for certain 2010 programming, which will be updated soon. He reported that the summer programs have good enrollment numbers. He also reported that P&R has received a slight increase in fee waiver requests over past years.
- e) Parks Committee (Mr. Bernstein).
  - i) Mr. Ungar stated that there are no issues/problems to report regarding the town parks.
  - ii) In response to a question from Mr. Bernstein, Mr. Ungar stated that the request to place a cell tower at Morehouse had gone nowhere and was considered a closed issue.
- 6) New Business.
  - a) Report on Meeting with Don Lemieux, Head Groundskeeper for Bridgeport Bluefish.
    - i) Mr. Ungar met today, July 12, 2010, with Don Lemieux, who is the head groundskeeper for the Bridgeport Bluefish, and volunteered his time for this visit. Mr. Ungar found Mr. Lemieux to be very well qualified and to have good ideas regarding field repair and maintenance. They walked Revson Field and Mr. Lemieux was made aware of the slope/pitch issues. Mr. Lemieux said that he would recommend raising the pitch of the infield to better run water off the field. He also suggested collection drains around the outsides of the infield. Additional suggestions from Mr. Lemieux were deep-tine core aeration; using golf course sand to top dress the infield rather than top soil; and slice-seeding the grass.
    - ii) Mr. Lemieux also said a possibility would be to use stone dust for the infield rather than clay. Mr. Ungar said this was not used in other area towns and probably would not be well-received.

- iii) When Mr. Ungar asked Mr. Lemieux for a recommendation of a firm that P&R should consider for further field expertise, Lemieux suggested Dennis Brolin of Sports Turf Specialties. This is the same person/firm that had been recommended independently to John Clevenger of Weston Baseball. Mr. Ungar will seek to schedule a meeting in the near future with Mr. Brolin.
- b) Board of Finance Meeting re. Revson Field Reallocation of Funds.
  - i) Mr. Juneau and Mr. Ungar reported on a meeting that they had with First Selectman Weinstein and the Board of Finance (BOF) on June 29, 2010. \$20,000 had been allocated as a capital item to repair Revson Field. Following further discussions with Weston Baseball and the Diamond Club, the suggestion was made to redeploy the allocated funds to an in-depth study of repairing the field rather than spending the money on actual field repairs. At the meeting, the BOF stated that there already was an expert report of Revson Field (the Milone and McBroom study) and indicated that the \$20,000 should be used for field repairs as originally allocated. The BOF indicated that they are of the mind to allocate about \$20,000-\$25,000 a year into this site over a 5-year period but said that P&R should not expect them to approve a larger scale project for Revson. The BOF further requested a 5-year plan for Revson including whether other options should be re-considered. The BOF's ideal is to get Revson into being a field safe for play, recognizing that it is unlikely to be a top-notch facility. As discussed above, Mr. Ungar has met with the head groundskeeper of the Bridgeport Bluefish regarding Revson and will seek to schedule a meeting with Sports Turf Specialties to further evaluate the possibilities for Revson repairs.
- c) Weston Family 4<sup>th</sup> of July Recap.
  - i) Mr. Ungar reported that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities went very well. Money taken in by ticket sales was slightly above last year (by approximately \$600). Mr. Ungar stated that while he was still awaiting a few final bills, he believed the overall net loss for the event would be essentially the same as last year (-\$2500). While it was more of a challenge to work the gates given the new placement closer to the Intermediate School, Mr. Ungar reported that the system seemed to work well and that he likely would do the same thing next year. The Commission discussed the possibility of seeking further sponsorships for next year's 4<sup>th</sup> of July and agreed to take the issue up further next Spring.

ii) The Commission extended its deep gratitude to Mr. Ungar and the entire P&R staff for putting on a fabulous event for the Town.

7) Correspondence: None.

8) Announcements, Remarks for the Good of the Order: None.

9) Adjournment: The Commission adjourned at 9:32 p.m., Mello/ Dodge motion and second. All in favor 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Albert

## OPEN ACTION ITEMS

- 2010-04      Opened on 1/11/10. Mr. Albert will work with Mr. Ungar to further investigate the option of automating P&R program registration and upgrading the P&R website. Mr. Ungar and Ms. Shattuck are conducting further investigation into various software products.
- 2010-07      Opened on 5/10/10. A joint P&R/BOE committee, in conjunction with Weston Baseball, will identify a ballfields expert and commission a study of Revson. Mr. Ungar met with the head groundskeeper of the Bridgeport Bluefish and will schedule a meeting with Dennis Brolin of Sports Turf Specialties.
- 2010-08      Opened on 6/14/10. Mr. Bernstein and Mr. Ungar will discuss the possibility of a bond/deposit requirement with Weston Little League/Weston Baseball/The Diamond Club.
- 2010-09      Opened on 7/12/10. Mr. Mello and Mr. Ungar will schedule a meeting with the Town's Capital Planning Committee to discuss the P&R 10-year capital plan.