

# TOWN of WESTON, CONNECTICUT



Incorporated 1787

Parks & Recreation Commission

## REGULAR MEETING

### MINUTES

MONDAY AUGUST 8, 2011

7:30 P.M.

WESTON TOWN HALL

DAUGHERTY COMMISSION ROOM

Eric Albert  
Chairman

Committees:  
Administrative,  
Programs

Robert Uzenoff  
Vice Chairman  
Committee:  
Administrative

Carl Bernstein  
Commissioner  
Committees:  
Fields, Parks

Marc Butlein  
Commissioner  
Committee:  
Programs

Brian Collins  
Commissioner  
Committee:

Jed Ferdinand  
Secretary  
Committee:  
Aquatics

David Juneau  
Commissioner  
Committee: Fields

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29

*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, August 8, 2011 at Weston Town Hall. Commissioners present: Eric Albert (Chairman), Carl Bernstein, Jed Ferdinand, David Juneau and Bob Uzenoff. Not present: Mr. Butlein, Mr. Collins. Staff present: Lynn Stevens. Public present: Elizabeth Poscik (Weston Swimming), Ryan Lochner (Weston Swimming).

- 1) Call to order: Mr. Albert called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.
- 2) Approval of Minutes. Minutes of the July 11, 2011 meeting were approved. For: Albert, Bernstein, Ferdinand, Juneau and Uzenoff. Against: None. Motion carried 5-0.
- 3) Public Forum.
  - a) Elizabeth Poscik and Ryan Lochner on behalf of Weston Swimming. *See item (6) below.*
- 4) Unfinished Business
  - a) Review of Action Items Due from July 11, 2011 Meeting.
    - i) There currently are no open Action Items.
    - b) Insurance for Sponsored Associations: It was decided to defer further consideration of this subject until the September P&R meeting.

- 30 c) Other Unfinished Business.
- 31 i) RecTrack: Ms. Stevens reports that the P&R staff continues the  
32 training process and expects that Fall registration will  
33 commence on August 30 as planned.
- 34 5) Reports of Standing Committees and Resulting Motions.
- 35 a) Administrative Committee (Messrs. Albert and Uzenoff).
- 36 i) Jed Ferdinand was appointed to the Aquatics Committee.
- 37 b) Fields Committee (Messrs. Bernstein and Juneau).
- 38 i) The contract was signed for the renovations at Revson. The  
39 work is scheduled to commence.
- 40 c) Programs Committee (Mr. Butlein).
- 41 i) None.
- 42 d) Parks Committee (Messrs. Bernstein and Butlein).
- 43 i) Bisceglie Park Walking Trail Renovation. There was a brief  
44 report on the status of the renovation. Mike D'Mattio finished  
45 work on the project and the trail is open for public use. The  
46 public response has been very positive.
- 47 ii) Ms. Stevens reports that Bisceglie Pond and the Middle School  
48 pool were busy this summer. Ms. Stevens provided attendance  
49 figures for Bisceglie Pond (attached). The average daily  
50 attendance for June was 64; for July was 41 and for the first  
51 week of August was 33. Free admission has increased  
52 attendance. The Bisceglie playground is apparently in constant  
53 use.
- 54 6) New Business.
- 55 i) Weston Middle School Pool and Locker Room Facilities.  
56 Elizabeth Poscik, President, and Ryan Lochner, Head Coach,  
57 appeared on behalf of Weston Swimming to report on the state  
58 of the Middle School pool and locker room facilities. They  
59 submitted a report that is attached hereto.
- 60 ii) According to Ms. Poscik, the pool gets broad usage from  
61 Weston Swimming and other organizations. The club has 125  
62 swimmers. The High School swim team uses the pool and the  
63 Middle School also uses the pool for Physical Education  
64 classes. The pool is in use eleven months a year.
- 65 iii) Ms. Poscik and Mr. Lochner reported that the air quality in the  
66 pool area is very poor. It is often very hot and humid and there  
67 is an ammonia smell. They claim the poor air quality causes  
68 eye irritation and breathing problems. They report that the  
69 cause of the problem appears to be that the exhaust system is

- 70 not working properly. The humidity has also caused exterior  
71 door locks to break.
- 72 iv) Ms. Stevens confirms that only one exhaust fan works properly.  
73 Two other fans are not operating. A replacement system for the  
74 HVAC system at the pool was in the budget for this year but  
75 was removed because of budget constraints.
- 76 v) Other problems at the pool include flooding of the pool area. It  
77 has happened a number of times because street drains back up  
78 into the boys and girls locker room. The sewer drain also  
79 backed up and flooded. At one time it flooded all the way into  
80 the pool area. The ceiling leaks from one of the exhaust fans  
81 and from other parts of the roof.
- 82 vi) Another problem is the scoreboard circuit breaker. It  
83 malfunctions frequently. It could be an issue related to  
84 improper grounding. As a result, the High School swim team  
85 has been unable to use the scoreboard during meets.
- 86 vii) They reported these concerns to Dan Clark but thus far the  
87 repairs have not been done.
- 88 viii) A separate problem is the condition of the locker rooms.  
89 Several showers, sinks and toilets don't work properly. Ms.  
90 Stevens reports that the entire Middle School now uses the  
91 swimming locker rooms because the school is storing desks in  
92 the other locker rooms on the main floor.
- 93 ix) Ms. Poscik also reported that the Weston Booster Club donated  
94 electronic starting blocks at a cost of \$12,000. Unfortunately  
95 they have been unable to install these blocks and it appears now  
96 that they may be unable to do so because of size and electrical  
97 problems.
- 98 x) The Commission expressed its strong interest to assist Weston  
99 Swimming to address these concerns within the confines of its  
100 jurisdiction. The Commission has a vested interest to improve  
101 pool and locker room conditions.
- 102 xi) Mr. Bernstein suggested trying to find an expert to opine on  
103 suggested repairs, perhaps on a pro bono basis.
- 104 xii) Mr. Uzenoff stated that these conditions, if true, were  
105 inexcusable and he suggested that Dan Clark be contacted.
- 106 xiii) Mr. Albert suggested a hybrid approach to address the  
107 concerns with multiple parties, including having Dave Ungar  
108 get involved upon his return from vacation.
- 109 7) Correspondence.
- 110 i) None

- 111 8) Announcements, Remarks for the Good of the Order.
- 112           i) The Sports Commission meeting was held on July 12, 2011.
- 113           Messrs. Albert, Bernstein and Butlein attended. There was a
- 114           discussion about the Booster Barn and consideration of
- 115           sponsorship of naming rights for stadium bleacher seats as a
- 116           means to raise revenue.
- 117 9) Adjournment: The Commission adjourned at 8:55 p.m., Juneau/
- 118           Bernstein motion and second. All in favor 5-0.
- 119 Respectfully Submitted,
- 120 Jed Ferdinand
- 121 Secretary

## **Weston Swimming –Pool Issues**

Who uses the pool on a daily basis?

Weston Swimming – 125 swimmers during the main season (Sept-March)

High School team – 30 girls and 15 boys

All middle school students for PE class

Parks and Rec Lessons

Adult swim – 10 per day

Triathletes – 30

Plus multiple summer camps, diving lessons, Boy scouts, CPR/Lifeguard/Scuba classes

Weston Swimming has the most swimmers using the pool, but we are extremely limited to 3-3 ½ hours of pool time per day, and we can't grow our program because of this.

### **Major pool issues**

#### **Air quality**

High humidity in pool area

Ammonia smelling air (high chloramine level), especially in the winter. This is due to lack of proper ventilation and the exhaust fan not working properly, and causes eye irritation and breathing problems in swimmers and coaches.

All doors to the pool have to be kept open, even in winter, to keep air quality at an acceptable level.

The HVAC system is connected to the system and the Middle School. Last winter, the gym got too cold, so the PE teachers turned up the heat. As a result, the pool and surrounding area got way too hot (the pool temperature was up to 86.9 degrees, which is a dangerous temperature for swimmers doing the kind of yardage our swimmers are doing.

Because the humidity is high, things are constantly breaking around the pool. Locks are being replaced every year. The lock on the door to the chemical room was broken for a long period of time. We have young children on the deck, and this could pose a significant safety hazard.

The issues we have had with the pool temperature/acidity/chemical control are all connected to air quality.

#### **Flooding**

Whenever there is heavy rainfall, the street drains back up into the boys' and girls' locker rooms. The water comes up through the sewer drain in the girls' locker room, and in some cases floods all the way into the pool. This problem was supposedly rectified last summer, but it still continues to happen whenever there is heavy rain.

With any moderate to heavy rain, the ceiling leaks through vents into the shallow end of the pool.

### **Electrical Issues**

The outlets on the deck were tripping the circuit breaker every few minutes. The outlets and fuse box were replaced, but now there is a grounding/shorting issue where multiple electrical items can't be used simultaneously. Weston Swimming paid over \$1100 for a new starter system (and the high school paid triple that amount) last year. We have not been able to use this once, because when a printer is plugged into the starting system, it shorts out the scoreboard display, so no times can get recorder.

What are the safety issues of electrical outlets that are not functioning properly right next to a pool?

### **Other Issues**

Most of the water fountains in the locker rooms/pool deck don't work, and the one that works has water that no one should drink.

Urinal in boys' locker room has been taped over for almost a year

Boys' handicapped shower has not been fixed/replaced (we have a handicapped swimmer on our team)

Sewer-type odor in girls' locker room

Exhaust fan over pool is manual only – does not go on automatically

Emergency doors in hallway don't stay open

Pool gutters in deep end often flood onto the deck

Door to spectator balcony has to be propped open by a rock or flipper

School custodian is putting vacuum in the pool every night. Is the whole pool bottom getting clean?