

TOWN of WESTON, CONNECTICUT



Incorporated 1787

Parks & Recreation Commission

DRAFT MINUTES WEDNESDAY JANUARY 21, 2009 7:30 P.M.

WESTON TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM

David C. Juneau
Chairman

Committees:
Administrative,
Fields

Carlos Mello
Vice chairman

Committee:
Aquatics

Nancy Babyak
Commissioner
Committee:
Programs

Marc Butlein
Commissioner
Committee:
Programs

Carl Bernstein
Commissioner
Committees:
Fields, Parks

Patrick E. Kane
Commissioner
Committee:
Aquatics

Robert A. Uzenoff
Commissioner
Committee:
Administrative

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The Weston Parks and Recreation Commission ("WPRC") continued its regular January meeting from January 5, 2009 on Wednesday, January 21, in the Daugherty Commission Room in town hall. Commissioners present: Nancy Babyak, Carl Bernstein, Marc Butlein, Chairman David Juneau, Carlos Mello and Bob Uzenoff. Commissioners absent: Pat Kane. Staff present: Weston Parks and Recreation Director David Ungar.

Official actions of the commission are indicated in these minutes by underlining.

- 1) Call to order: A quorum being present, Mr. Juneau called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.
- 2) Public forum: no person presented for the public forum.
- 3) Unfinished Business
 - a) Action item review. Refer to the action items list beginning on page 5 for details.
 - i) 2008-25 Mr. Juneau reported the letter had been sent to Mr. Belair. Mr. Juneau will provide a copy for the minutes of this meeting. High school athletic director Mr. Burkowitz telephoned Mr. Juneau in reply to the letter. The sense of the meeting was that WPRC wants a written response from the school explaining why WPRC should not be concerned that yet another repeat of this situation will occur. Mr. Juneau will follow-up. This action item remains open.
 - ii) 2009-01 Mr. Butlein reported he met with Mr. Bliss. Regarding declining participation in Weston Soccer Club, Inc. (WSC) programs, Mr. Bliss replied that he believed WSC's declining

31 enrollment was specific to that club; he was unaware that other
32 clubs were having enrollment declines. Regarding renting field
33 time to other entities, Mr. Bliss stated that the mechanism to do
34 that exists and it requires no further action to execute. Mr. Bliss
35 said he was unaware of the request Mr. Shaner reported to
36 WPRC on January 5 that the Board of Finance had asked the
37 High School athletic director to “identify revenue producing
38 opportunities to pay-down bleacher/booster barn expenditure.”
39 The meeting designated this action item as now closed.

40 iii) 2009-02 Mr. Bernstein reported no activity on this item. The
41 meeting designated this action item as now closed.

42 iv) 2009-03 Mr. Juneau reported he discussed the matter with
43 Board of Finance (BoF) member David Muller, who suggested
44 WPRC could ask BoF for discussion of this matter. The
45 meeting designated this action item as now closed.

46 b) Other Unfinished Business

47 i) WPRC considered Mr. Shaner’s January 5 proposal for WPRC
48 to participate in a committee to explore revenue development in
49 light of WPRC’s powers and duties as laid out in the Weston
50 Code, Article VI, Section 2-63. The commission unanimously
51 found the scope of Mr. Shaner’s request fell outside the
52 commission’s duties. The proposal is considered abandoned.
53 Mr. Bernstein accepted the action item to draft a letter so
54 informing WSC. Mr. Bernstein will present the draft for
55 commission approval at its February meeting.

56 The commission unanimously resolved not to engage in
57 activities exploring or facilitating the renting of town recreation
58 fields to entitites outside of the town for programs which would
59 largely benefit non-residents.

60 4) Reports of standing committees and resulting motions:

61 a) Administrative Committee

62 i) Mr. Ungar reported meeting with the first selectman, town
63 administrator, and finance director/assistant town administrator
64 on the commission’s 2009/2010 fiscal year budget. The 3.3%
65 increased budget was accepted and moves to the Board of
66 Selectmen’s review on February 3. At that time, Mr. Ungar will
67 emphasize to the selectmen that allowance for maintenance of
68 the track (at the high school) needs to be accounted for in future
69 year budgets, and that it has not been agreed what share should
70 be in the selectmen’s or BoE’s budget. Mr. Juneau invited
71 commissioners to attend and be present to defend and support
72 the budget.

73 b) Aquatics Committee (Messrs. Kane, Mello)

- 74 i) The pool and shower facilities are operating nominally.
75 Responding to a question from the commission, Mr. Ungar
76 replied that the previously discontinued mid-day swim was still
77 discontinued and that there had been no clamor for its
78 reinstatement.
- 79 c) Fields Committee (Messrs. Juneau, Bernstein)
- 80 i) Mr. Ungar reported that he had traded budget dollars for a top
81 dressing of Revson field to instead install curtain drains at
82 Revson. In the spring the drains will be connected and, as
83 previously scheduled, the second and final shatter aeration will
84 occur.
- 85 ii) Mr. Ungar will supply copies of agronomist/soil scientist Dr.
86 William Dest's summary of his commissioned examination and
87 assessment of the playing surface conditions at Morehouse
88 Farm Park, Bisceglie Scribner Park, Revson Field, Middle
89 School Field, Field Hockey, North House Field and South
90 House Fields on his visit of August 19, 2008 to BoE Director of
91 Finance and Operations and Director of Facilities.
- 92 iii) Mr. Ungar reported John Clevenger has replaced Skip Goldberg
93 as Little League president.
- 94 d) Programs Committee (Mrs. Babyak and Mr. Butlein)
- 95 i) After school skiing/snow boarding for grades 6-8 at Mount
96 Southington trips start January 22.
- 97 ii) Sports and Fitness for grades 2-5 registration is underway.
- 98 iii) Games Gallery for K-5 is back and starts at the beginning of
99 February.
- 100 e) Parks Committee (Mr. Bernstein)
- 101 i) Parks are plowed. Commissioners unanimously agreed that the
102 green "no-idling" signs the town installed last year are an
103 eyesore.
- 104 5) New Business – no new business.
- 105 6) Correspondence – no other correspondence.
- 106 7) Announcements, remarks for the good of the order
- 107 a) Mr. Uzenoff will not be able to attend the February meeting.
- 108 8) The commission adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

109 Respectfully submitted,

110 Robert A. Uzenoff

111 Attachment: Commisison letter to Superintendent of Schools dated
112 December 31, 2008

DRAFT

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ACTION ITEMS

2008-25 Messrs. Mello and Juneau will write the Superintendent of Schools, copying the Chair of the Board of Education, expressing the Commissions' displeasure that the high school athletic director permitted the Aspetuck Wildcats to install temporary lighting on the stadium field, and that the installation did not meet the WPRC expectation and understanding that it would conform to the artificial turf manufacturer's specifications.

Update of 01-21-2009: The sense of the meeting was that WPRC wants a written response from the school explaining why WPRC should not be concerned that yet another repeat of this situation will occur. Mr. Juneau will follow-up.

2009-01 Opened 01-05-2009 Mr. Butlein will discuss the WSC situation with the first selectman. Accepted 01-05-2009. Closed 01-21-2009.

2009-02 Opened 01-05-2009 Mr. Bernstein will discuss the WSC situation with the Board of Finance chair, Mr. O'Brien. Closed 01-21-2009.

2009-03 Opened 01-05-2009 Mr. Juneau will discuss the WSC situation with Board of Finance member Mr. Sargent. Closed 01-21-2009.

2009-04 Opened 01-21-2009 Mr. Bernstein accepted the action item to draft a letter informing WSC that WPRC will not participate in a "... committee to explore revenue development." Mr. Bernstein will present the draft for commission approval at its February meeting.

2009-05 Opened 01-21-2009 Mr. Ungar will supply copies of agronomist/soil scientist Dr. William Dest's summary of his commissioned examination and assessment of the playing surface conditions at Morehouse Farm Park, Bisceglie Scribner Park, Revson Field, Middle School Field, Field Hockey, North House Field and South House Fields on his visit of August 19,2008 to BoE Director of Finance and Operations and Director of Facilities.

114 Electronic file name: 2009-01-21 WPRC Minutes-Draft1.doc

TOWN of WESTON, CONNECTICUT



Incorporated 1787

Parks & Recreation Commission

December 31, 2008

Mr. Jerome R. Belair
Superintendent of Schools
Weston Public Schools
24 School Road
Weston, CT 06883

Re: Placement of Artificial Lighting on the Stadium Turf Field and Running Track (Notre Dame vs. Weston, Varsity Football, November 14)

Dear Mr. Blair:

It has come to the Parks & Recreation Commission's attention that the portable artificial lights utilized during the Notre Dame vs. Weston High School varsity football game held on the evening of November 14, 2008 were not installed in accordance with Field Turf Maintenance Guidelines, which state:

Field Protection System

5.2 Medium Events (applied loads between 40 to 60 psi)

- Light vehicle traffic (pick up trucks, cars, small tractors, small fork lifts)
- Protection against possible punctures from sharp objects (chairs, tables, etc.)
- Small trade shows/flea markets

Mandatory Field Protection Systems for Medium Events

- Reinforced vinyl tarps covered with one layer of $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick plywood.

As you can see from the attached photographs, the portable artificial lights were installed in a manner not meeting these guidelines.

This is especially troubling as this is not the first occurrence. A similar installation of temporary artificial lighting, not meeting the Field Turf Maintenance Guidelines, occurred during a November 2007 varsity football game. This non-conformance was communicated to the Directors of High School Athletics, Facilities Maintenance and Parks & Recreation.

Further, it is our understanding that the High School Athletics Department, the Board of Education Facilities Maintenance Department and the Parks & Recreation Department have all been supplied with copies of Field Turf Maintenance Guidelines, and have been diligently working to ensure that the Artificial Turf, at both the Stadium and Varsity fields, are maintained in accordance with these guidelines.

The Artificial Turf fields are valuable assets of the town; requiring prescribed maintenance and care to achieve their useful and productive lives. As you are aware, repair and replacement costs for artificial turf playing surfaces are often measured in hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of dollars.

Therefore, on the behalf of Parks & Recreation Commission, I am seeking your commitment to ensure that all academic and athletic use of the Artificial Turf Fields and Running Track by the Weston Schools conform to these prescribed maintenance and care guidelines. Further, all necessary staff will be made aware of these guidelines and operating procedures will be put in place to ensure compliance.

We appreciate your support and assistance in this very important matter. Dave Ungar, Parks & Recreation Director, and I stand ready to support you and your staff in ensuring the appropriate maintenance and care of the Artificial Turf Fields and Running Track.

Please contact Dave Ungar at 222-2584 or dungar@westonct.gov if Parks & Recreation can be of any assistance, or if you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter.

Respectfully Yours,

David C. Juneau
Chairman
Weston Parks & Recreation Commission

cc: Ellen Uzenoff – Chair, Board of Education
Mark Berkowitz – High School Athletic Director
David Ungar – Parks & Recreation Director
Carlos Mello – Parks & Recreation Commission