



Incorporated 1787

Parks & Recreation Commission

**REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
MONDAY NOVEMBER 9, 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
Commissioner
Committee:
TBD

Nancy Babyak
Commissioner
Committee:
Programs

Carl Bernstein
Commissioner
Committees:
Fields, Parks

Marc Butlein
Commissioner
Committee:
Programs

Robert A. Uzenoff
Commissioner
Committee:
Administrative

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, November, 2009 at Weston Town Hall. Commissioners present: Eric Albert, Nancy Babyak, Carl Bernstein, David Juneau. Marc Butlein joined the meeting at 7:40 p.m. and Carlos Mello joined the meeting at 8:03 p.m. Commissioners absent: none. Staff present: Weston Parks and Recreation (P&R) Aquatics Director Lynn Stevens and Programs Director Bill Shaeffer. Public present: Eric Tyson, Andrew Lahn, and Tom Sherman.

Call to order: Mr. Juneau called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

- 1) Approval of minutes. Minutes of the October 5, 2009 meeting were approved with no corrections. For: Albert, Babyak, Bernstein, Butlein, Juneau, Mello and Uzenoff. Against: None. Abstain: None
- 2) Public Forum (occurred prior to item 1 above):
 - a) Lynn Stevens on Aquatics: Swim programs are going well with some youth programs at capacity with short wait-lists. The pool is functioning well with water temperature, deck temperature and shower hot water all working well.
 - i) Since Ms. Stevens allows non-Weston residents to enroll in aquatics programs, she follows this procedure:

- (1) Current program participants have option to 'roll into' the next session (September session starts fresh with no rollovers from previous session, however).
 - (2) Registration for Weston residents is then held for new program participants
 - (3) Finally, registration is opened to non-Weston residents
- ii) One new rule to which pool staff are adapting is the Middle School security policy requiring parents to be 'buzzed in' by intercom until 2:30 p.m. Mr. Uzenoff pointed out that parents could also enter the building via the front doors and sign in like other visitors.
 - iii) Ms. Stevens also touched on the successful after-school ski program she runs, a summer triathlon camp which is run through P&R, and a fishing program which is taught by State of Connecticut officials.
- b) Bill Shaeffer on Programs: Mr. Shaeffer walked the WPRC through many of the programs in the WPRC programs spreadsheet. Of note:
- i) Womens softball has a 6 team league
 - ii) Mens softball is pick-up games only
 - iii) Some game gallery programs are now being run by Youth Services, causing P&R programs to show lower participation numbers.
 - iv) Coach Matt Medve is running a pole-vault program that seems to be translating into great pole vault performances for the high school track team.
 - v) Wrestling program has died out without the leadership of a motivated parent.
 - vi) Basketball program is very active for both boys and girls grades 1-8. Girls 7-8th grade is a little thin.
 - vii) No field hockey camp this past summer.
- c) Eric Tyson and Andrew Lahn, regarding new Rec-plus boys 6th grade basketball team: Msrs. Tyson and Lahn talked about the need they saw for a rec-plus team fro 6th grade boys and the ability to get gym time. Mr. Uzenoff recommended this be handled administratively with Bill Shaeffer. The rest of the WPRC agreed. Other commissioners agreed. Mt. Tyson also brought up a concern he had regarding travel basketball holding try-outs while other sports (like soccer) were still in session. The WPRC recommended Mr. Tyson pursue this area of concern with Michael Carter of the Weston Sports Council.

3) Unfinished Business

- a) Action item follow-up.
 - i) 2009-19 Mr. Mello met with Sue Phister of the Westport Senior Center (WSC) and learned they do not know the number of unique Weston residents who utilize the WSC. Mr. Mello shared some other information from his meeting:
 - (1) The WSC has about 100,000 visits per year now.
 - (2) The average Westport participant is 77 years old.
 - (3) The WSC is open M-F 8:30 – 4:30 and Saturday 10:00-2:00. (compare to Weston Senior Center in East House open M,T and Th 10:00-2:00).
 - (4) Funding for WSC:
 - (a) \$4.5mm appropriation in 2003, a portion of which came from the State of Connecticut.
 - (b) \$455,000 per year from Town of Westport
 - (c) Friends of the Senior Center (private fundraising)
- This item is considered closed. See Action Items 2009-21 and 2009-22 for further research into adult fitness for Weston Residents.
- ii) 2009-20 Mr. Bernstein has not contacted Cory Attra regarding the BSP playground Gazebo, but this action item is being deleted because the Weston Park Project has decided not to pursue constructing a gazebo. This item is now closed.
- b) Soccer Club Jamboree update: The original and rain date in were both rained out. No jamboree was held.
- c) Other unfinished business

4) Reports of standing committees and resulting motions:

- a) Administrative Committee (Mr. Juneau). Correspondence by phone and email from Eric Tyson, plus materials forwarded by Mr. Tyson for this meeting.
- b) Aquatics Committee (Mr. Mello). See Public Forum above for report of Director Lynn Stevens.
- c) Fields Committee (Mssrs. Bernstein and Juneau)
 - i) Mr. Juneau reported having heard from Little League (LL) field maintenance person Joe Cina about LL's desire to have P&R refurbish clay areas of each ball field, perhaps on a rotating basis, with financial assistance from LL.

- ii) Mr. Uzenoff reported Weston Schools are considering maintaining campus fields themselves and asked if a copy of Dr. William Dest's recent ball field assessment had been forwarded to the Board of Education. Mr. Uzenoff will follow up with David Ungar to see if this has been done.
 - d) Programs Committee (Ms. Babyak and Mr. Butlein)
 - i) See Public Forum above for Mr. Shaeffer's report to the WPRC.
 - ii) Mr. Uzenoff would like to see information on unique number of families and individuals served in P&R programs, not just overall enrollment numbers.
 - iii) Mr. Butlein and Mr. Uzenoff recommended P&R conduct a survey for town satisfaction levels with P&R programs and track P&R's performance in satisfying residents on a yearly basis. The WPRC agreed to make this an agenda item for the December 2009 meeting. Mr. Uzenoff also directed the WPRC to the National Parks and Recreation website for more ideas on surveys. <http://www.nrpa.org>.
 - iv) Mr. Bernstein expressed frustration with the Board of Education not having a point person on recreation issues to whom he could direct questions. Mr. Uzenoff recommended directing questions to David Ungar, and then, if Mr. Ungar was unable to answer the question, allowing Mr. Ungar to find the answer from school administration personnel.
 - v) Ms. Babyak asked about a Parks and Recreation brochure and if it could be posted to the P&R website. More on this when the WPRC discusses resident satisfaction with P&R programs in December.
 - e) Parks Committee (Mr. Bernstein)
 - i) Weston Parks Project ("WPP") Playground: Mr. Juneau reported Samantha Parker of WPP has decided to pursue a chess table and chairs rather than pursuing a gazebo. Mr. Ungar is handling this with Ms. Parker.
 - ii) Morehouse Farm Park (MFP) History Sign: responding to a question from Mr. Uzenoff, Mr. Juneau reported that the sign installer had stopped by Mr. Ungar's office to pick up the sign in order to install it at the location Mr. Ungar had staked out at MFP.
- 5) New Business
- a) Bill Shaeffer Programs Report – see Public Forum Above
 - b) Lynn Stevens Aquatics Report – see Public Forum Above

- c) Eric Tyson / Andrew Lahn Rec Plus Basketball idea – see Public Forum above.
 - d) Joe Cina, Bisceglie Scribner Park (BSP) ball diamond refurbishment. Mr. Juneau reported Mr. Cina had inquired about refurbishing clay areas of ball diamonds at BSP. Mr. Juneau will direct Mr. Cina to Mr. Ungar to assess this need.
- 6) Correspondence - None
- 7) Announcements, remarks for the good of the order.
- a) Mr. Uzenoff announced a Kiwanis/ADAP pasta dinner on 11/13/9 and the Weston High School play on 11/13 – 11/15 in the HS auditorium.
 - b) Mr. Bernstein revealed a copy of a new magazine: Connecticut Student Athlete – Fairfield County Edition and recommended fellow WPRC members take a look.
- 8) Adjournment: The commission adjourned at 9:48 p.m., Butlein/Bernstein motion and second. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Juneau

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ACTION ITEMS

- 2009-10 Mr. Ungar will ask Building Inspector Rack Gleason (or the proper authority if not Mr. Gleason) about lightening protection needs of the new tower and picnic pavilion near the pond at BSP. Completed and closed October 5, 2009.
- 2009-16 Opened on 9/14/09, Mr. Ungar will forward Ms. Steven's report on BSP Pond attendance to WPRC as soon as it is available. Completed and closed October 5, 2009.
- 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 11/9/09 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 willingness to host Weston adults for non-peak gym time at favorable prices.
- 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.

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