



Incorporated 1787

Parks & Recreation Commission

**REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
MONDAY MARCH 8, 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:
TBD

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, March 8, 2010 at Weston Town Hall. Commissioners present: Eric Albert, Carl Bernstein, Marc Butlein, P.J. Dodge, David Juneau and Robert Uzenoff. Commissioners absent: Carlos Mello. Staff present: Weston Parks and Recreation (P&R) Director David Ungar. Public present: Joe Cina and Mike Demattio of Weston Little League (WLL).

- 1) Call to order: Mr. Juneau called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
- 2) Approval of Minutes. Minutes of the February 8, 2010 meeting were approved with no corrections. For: Albert, Butlein, Dodge, Juneau and Uzenoff. Against: None. Abstain: Bernstein.
- 3) Public Forum: Joe Cina and Mike Demattio of WLL discussed WLL's request to raise the backstop on Bisceglie 1 to better prevent foul balls from going into the parking lot behind the field. They also are planning to put up netting near the Bisceglie 2 and 3 fence lines to better prevent balls from rolling into the surrounding wetlands. WLL will be paying for these improvements. There being no objection from the Commission, Dave Ungar will work with WLL to properly implement these items.
- 4) Unfinished Business
 - a) Review of Action Items from February 8, 2010 Meeting.

- i) 2009-22 – As a result of Mr. Mello’s absence, this issue was deferred to a future meeting. Mr. Uzenoff learned that the Norwalk Community College gym is affordable and might be a cost-effective alternative for local adults to explore if it is available to people not affiliated with the college.
 - ii) 2010-01 – See discussion below at item 4(c).
 - iii) 2010-02 – As a result of Mr. Mello’s absence, this issue was deferred to a future meeting.
 - iv) 2010-03 – Mr. Juneau reported that the emphasis has been on getting funding for the Bisceglie 1 repairs. In addition, Mr. Ungar and the Fields Committee have been working with WLL. Mr. Uzenoff suggested contacting the Bridgeport Bluefish to see if they can provide a fields expert to assess our fields and provide advice on proper maintenance. Mr. Uzenoff will speak with Bluefish contacts he’s previously interacted with through Kiwanis. Messrs. Bernstein and Juneau will talk with Westport and Wilton contacts about their field maintenance.
 - v) 2010-04 – Mr. Albert and Mr. Ungar reported to the Commission that Mr. Ungar had begun contacting recommended vendors (including RecTrack and Active Network) that sell parks and recreation software and began assembling cost proposals. The initial indication is that the prices seem pretty high. Mr. Ungar will coordinate with Sharon Shattuck to get software samples for review. Mr. Albert and Mr. Ungar also discussed the possibility of having a summer college or high school intern to help re-design the P&R website. Mr. Albert and Mr. Ungar will report back on their further investigations at a future meeting.
 - vi) 2010-05 – See discussion below at item 4(b).
 - vii) 2010-06 – Mr. Ungar reported that everyone on the sports and fitness waitlist ultimately was offered a spot in the program, and that P&R will continue to try to make appropriate accommodations with regard to programs that have waitlists. Based on this, and also on the fact that none of the surrounding towns use a lottery (as reported by Mr. Ungar to the Commission at the February 2010 meeting), the Commission decided to take no action on instituting a lottery system and this item is now closed.
- b) Parks & Recreation Proposed Budget Update; Selectmen’s Budget Hearing.
- i) Mr. Juneau spoke with First Selectman Weinstein and attended the Board of Finance (BOF) meeting where the Selectmen

presented their budget. Questions arose at the BOF meeting regarding the funding of the Bisceglie field repairs. Ms. Weinstein reported to the BOF that the funding for the Bisceglie 1 repair would be allocated out of the enterprise fund. Mr. Juneau reported that the Selectmen will seek to pass a motion regarding use of the enterprise funds for this purpose, which will then be presented to the BOF. The BOF also asked for background data on P&R programming, which Mr. Ungar is in the process of providing.

- ii) Mr. Butlein suggested that P&R should consider having a maintenance fund, so that P&R does not have to go to the BOF each time a special field maintenance issue arises. Mr. Juneau indicated that he will continue his dialogue in this regard with the BOF. Mr. Ungar indicated that P&R does have a maintenance budget. Ms. Dodge inquired whether items could be moved into the operating/maintenance budget rather than as capital requests. Mr. Uzenoff suggested that the Commission should spend more time developing and marketing P&R's programs and not spend as much time on financial issues, leaving these decisions to others such as the BOF. Messrs. Juneau, Bernstein and Butlein will reach out to various members of the BOF to further discuss these issues.
- c) Program Fee Discussion – Fourth of July.
 - i) As an initial matter, Mr. Ungar stated that he will work on moving collection points to better spots on School Road to try to increase the collections. Mr. Ungar further stated that he was hesitant to increase the fireworks admission prices too much beyond the current prices of \$5/adult and \$2/child. The Commission then discussed various pricing structures and ultimately agreed not to raise the prices for the 2010 Fourth of July fireworks. The Commission agreed to revisit this issue in the event that Fairfield County Bank chooses not to sponsor the event this year.
 - d) Program Website presence.
 - i) See discussion above at item 4(a)(v).
 - e) Other Unfinished Business: None.
- 5) Reports of Standing Committees and Resulting Motions.
 - a) Administrative Committee (Messrs. Juneau and Albert).
 - i) Mr. Ungar stated that he has forwarded the 2005-10 program registration numbers and the last two years of enterprise numbers to the BOF and will send this to the Commission as well.

- b) Aquatics Committee (Mr. Mello).
 - i) Mr. Ungar informed the Commission that the new registration period for swim lessons has begun and that the previous session was completely filled.
 - ii) Mr. Ungar also reported that the Middle School roof may be replaced this summer, depending on whether the bond issue passes. The roof work should not affect pool usage and accessibility.
 - iii) In response to a question from the Commission, Mr. Ungar stated that the Bisceglie pond will be filled with water sometime in May and that P&R will advertise in the Weston Forum about the re-implemented usage fees.
- c) Fields Committee (Messrs. Bernstein and Juneau).
 - i) Mr. Ungar had the pre-season meeting with Steck's last week, and they will start prepping the fields by April 1. Mr. Ungar discussed with Steck's the full list of field maintenance issues that had been derived together with WLL's input. Dr. Dest's recommendations also will be implemented.
 - ii) Mr. Ungar informed the Commission that Morehouse Field 1, which had been closed during the Fall soccer season, will be ready to be reopened for play after the April school break. The other Morehouse fields are in good playing shape and another seasonal closure is not necessary at this time.
 - iii) Mr. Ungar stated that he is considering requests from WLL and AAU to further utilize Morehouse Field 4.
 - iv) In response to questions from the Commission, Mr. Ungar stated that there is no Monday-Thursday rental time available on the turf fields for soccer clubs that have previously made requests. Mr. Ungar further stated that Friday-Sunday rental time also did not look feasible, given the current field scheduling.
- d) Programs Committee (Messrs. Albert and Butlein).
 - i) The Commission discussed the BOF's request for information on P&R programming.
 - ii) For the April WPRC meeting, Mr. Ungar will present updated programming spreadsheets to reflect the winter programming.
 - iii) Mr. Ungar stated that registration for P&R-sponsored summer camps will occur soon and that final decisions about the locations for the camps will be based on what happens with the Middle School roof replacement.
- e) Parks Committee (Mr. Bernstein).

- i) Mr. Juneau gave the Commission a heads-up that a request may be made in the near future regarding naming the playground at Bisceglie Scribner Park.
- 6) New Business: None.
- 7) Correspondence: None.
- 8) Announcements, Remarks for the Good of the Order.
 - a) Mr. Bernstein told the Commission that he recently attended the collegiate squash championships at Trinity College and suggested that P&R consider squash for future programming.
- 9) Adjournment: The Commission adjourned at 9:39 p.m., Butlein/Bernstein motion and second. All in favor 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric Albert

OPEN ACTION ITEMS

- 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.
- 2009-22 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.
- 2010-01 Opened on 1/11/10. The Commission will set the 2010 BSP pond usage fee and Fourth of July fireworks admission prices at its February 8, 2010 regular meeting. The BSP pond usage fee was set. The Commission decided not to increase the Fourth of July fireworks prices. This item is now closed.
- 2010-02 Opened on 1/11/10. Mr. Mello will draft a proposed framework for a P&R 10-year capital plan. Mr. Mello presented a first draft Capital Asset Replacement Schedule at the Commission's February 8, 2010 meeting and will provide an expanded draft at a future WPRC meeting.
- 2010-03 Opened on 1/11/10. The Fields Committee will further investigate BSP ballfield repair/maintenance options, including potentially seeking an expert opinion. Messrs. Juneau and Bernstein will speak to contacts in Wilton and Westport regarding maintenance of their ballfields. Mr. Uzenoff will try to contact the Bridgeport Bluefish to see if they can provide a field expert to evaluate/make recommendations re. our ballfields.
- 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. Albert and Mr. Ungar will conduct further investigation and provide additional updates at a future WPRC meeting.
- 2010-05 Opened on 2/8/10. Mr. Juneau to speak with First Selectman Weinstein regarding P&R budget/enterprise fund issues. Messrs. Juneau, Bernstein and Butlein will seek to have further discussions with members of the Board of Finance.
- 2010-06 Opened on 2/8/10. The Commission shall make a decision about whether to institute a lottery system for program registration in place of the current first-come/first-served system. No action taken on implementing a lottery. This item is now closed.

