

TOWN of WESTON, CONNECTICUT



Incorporated 1787

Parks & Recreation Commission

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2014

7:45 P.M.

WESTON TOWN HALL

DAUGHERTY COMMISSION ROOM

Eric Albert
Chairman
Committees:
Administrative,
Programs

David Juneau
Vice Chairman
Committee:
Fields

Carl Bernstein
Commissioner
Committees:
Fields, Parks

Marc Butlein
Commissioner
Committee:
Programs

Jed Ferdinand
Secretary
Committee:
Aquatics

Brian Collins
Commissioner
Committee:
Administrative

Mark Crowley
Commissioner

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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 10, 2014 at Weston Town Hall. Commissioners present: Eric Albert, Carl Bernstein, Brian Collins, Mark Crowley and Dave Juneau.

Public Present: Sally Korsh, Jon Kamisar, Marc Block ,Dawn Egan, Tony DePasquale, Stacy Kamisar, Richard Silverstein, Brian Porter, Leslie Floyd, Kay Spencer, Ken Friedrichsen, Mark Berkowitz and Larry Schwartz.

Call to order: Chairman Albert called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

1) Approval of Minutes.

Minutes of the February 10 , 2014 regular meeting were approved, Motion to approve Mark Crowley seconded Carl Bernstein. For: Albert, Bernstein, Collins, Crowley and Juneau. Motion carried 5-0.

2) Public Forum.

The Weston Stadium Field lighting proposal from the Weston Lights Committee was the topic for tonight's public discussion. Members of the various Town sports groups were present as well as representatives of the neighborhood surrounding the Stadium Field.

Chairman Albert read from the Town Code about the powers and duties of the Parks & Recreation Commission then recused himself from this

31 discussion as he is a member of the Weston light Committee and
32 handed the meeting over to Vice Chairman David Juneau.

33 Vice Chairman Juneau explained the role of the Parks & Recreation
34 Commission in the decision making process and opened up the floor to
35 the public for comment on the lighting proposal.

36 Richard Silverstein of Parade Ground court noted that there is no buffer
37 between the neighbors and the field and felt this proposal was unduly
38 burdensome to the neighbors.

39 Larry Schwartz of Parade Ground Court noted the field is closer to his
40 property than where the original football field was located prior to the
41 construction of the WIS school. It is right in his backyard and this
42 proposal is more than just Friday night games.

43 Leslie Floyd of Old Hyde Road is opposed to lights but agreed to
44 Board of Educations proposed schedule of 30 nights. 120 nights is
45 unacceptable. She enjoys the nature of Weston and does think lights
46 will illuminate the sky. Worried about security of children being out at
47 night that late.

48 Jonathan Kamisar of Parade Ground Court is unsure of the proposal for
49 105-140 nights, Needs for infrastructure must be met not wants.
50 Requests that the committee take a look at needs. The Stadium
51 proposed lighting is stronger than existing soccer field lights, higher
52 poles and more light fixtures per pole. Noted that Westport went
53 through this process and was limited to 8 events through litigation.

54 Brian Porter of Parade Ground Court Opposes plan as excessive. Need
55 vs. wants should be examined and he invited members of the
56 Commission to his property to view the impact it might have.
57 Recommended temporary lights be erected to view the potential impact
58 they will have. The noise now is intolerable and Mr. Porter feels it
59 would only increase if this plan is approved. He recommends a
60 reasonable compromise be reached.

61 Tony DePasquale of Weston Youth Football & Cheer noted the need
62 for evening practices since moving the football program to Weston
63 only from the Tri Town team of a few years ago. Need lights for
64 evening practices and have been renting portable lights the past two
65 years on the Middle School field. He feels the portable lights are
66 inadequate as is the MS field. Lights would give the children a safe turf
67 playing field. August through 2nd week in November is the season for
68 them. The need five nights per week for their program and it is a need
69 not a want for them.

70 Mark Berkowitz HS Athletic Director. Prior to turf fields installation
71 the fields were reserved just for games. Now with 750 Students the
72 fields are used non stop for games as well as practices. The Middle
73 School field where youth football practices is getting destroyed and

74 becoming unusable for the Physical Education classes that need that
75 space. They need to be put on to the turf fields and at night after the HS
76 is finished. The programs are growing in number.

77 Dawn Egan, HS Booster Club. The Boosters have a big investment in
78 the Turf fields and Booster barn, The potential for night game gate
79 receipts would bring in extra revenue to the Boosters to help them
80 repay the loan commitments to the Town for both projects. Currently
81 the Turf football field is underutilized due to only use available being
82 daytime hours. Passed on an invitation to a neighbor of the soccer fields
83 home to view the negligible impact that the lights have on the
84 surrounding homes.

85 Ken Friedrichsen, Weston Lacrosse club They have approximately 300
86 participants. Youth sports are not seasonal any longer as most clubs
87 play year round. Lacrosse puts 3 or 4 teams on a afield at one time
88 which is not optimal. Must utilize our turf football field more, lights
89 would be a god way to do that.

90 Kay Spencer, Youth Football and Cheer, Players formerly practiced in
91 Easton during the week and played in Weston on weekends. When the
92 football and cheer club split from The Aspetuck Wildcats they came to
93 Weston to not only play the games but for weekday practices. This is
94 now a Weston only league. The grass field at the Middle School is now
95 becoming unsafe due to over use. To answer a safety question posed
96 Kay responded that No coach leaves the field until all players are
97 picked up.

98 Sandy Block, Parade Ground Court The soccer field does not have
99 direct neighbors who have issues with direct light and sound. He
100 expressed concern that everything will be moved to the Stadium field
101 (all sports) overburdening the neighbors by this. Mr. Block feels that
102 the committee is looking for unlimited lighting and wants to see a
103 compromise reached that is fair to the kids and the neighbors. He feels
104 that the Westport plan is reasonable.

105 Jonathan Kamisar, expressed concern for “Mission Creep” what is
106 keeping the usage from creeping up in the future? It is unfair to
107 compare the soccer lights to the football field lights proposal.

108 Vice chairman Juneau is looking for a memorandum of understanding
109 to be developed between the Light Committee and the Town of
110 Weston.

111 Organizations will come up with a list of needs and the Commission
112 will balance those needs as they deliberate on this.

113 Commissioner Brian Collins explained that extra usage of the stadium
114 field will ultimately shorten the life of the turf on the stadium field
115 and will require more funding raised for its replacement.

116 Sandy Block asked about non Weston teams using the field for CIAC
117 tournament games and said that night games lead to worse playing
118 conditions and injury to players. Speaker System remediation is needed
119 as well with an enforcement mechanism in place to insure regulations
120 are followed for proper use of sound and lights.

121 Vice Chairman Juneau said that the latest revision from the Light
122 Committee stated that light usage would end by 9:00PM except for HS
123 games and emergency situations. Setting up test lighting may or may
124 not be useful on the football field. The question is what is acceptable
125 use to forward to the Board of Selectmen?

126 Commissioner Collins asked why does youth football, lacrosse and
127 soccer need to play night games on the football field?

128 Tony DePasquale ,the scheduling is done by the league organization
129 based upon what availability the Weston clubs have for use. Football
130 would like home games and an extra slot would allow this.

131 Sally Korsh Weston Soccer Club, The soccer club would only use it on
132 a limited basis.

133 Ken Friedrichsen Lacrosse would use it for practices only they would
134 use both turf fields to play more home games.

135 Richard Silverstein, The most recent revision to the document states
136 130 nights of use. This is not a compromise and is onerous.

137 Brian Porter. Home investment should not be compromised to raise
138 money for the Booster Barn with night games to repay loans. Westport
139 model is 8 to 12 nights per year.

140 Richard Silverstein, All activities should be moved to the Middle
141 School it is less intrusive. All fields should be used.

142 Kay Spencer the Middle School field did not receive endorsement for
143 lights from the Board of Ed.

144 Vice Chairman Juneau stated that the Memorandum of Understanding
145 draft procedure is open to public discussion. The thrust is for practice
146 time for youth leagues.

147 Mr. Kamisar and Michael Carter from the Light Committee will meet
148 on March 11th to facilitate further discussion on this topic.

149 Vice Chairman Juneau stated that no action will be taken at this time.

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153 Unfinished Business

- 154 a) Lights at Bisceglie Field #1: Planning and Zoning approved the
155 Selectmen's recommendation for the lighting project and the Little
156 League will now go to the Board of Selectmen and Board of
157 Finance for gift approval. Prior to that the Little League and
158 Selectmen will draft a memorandum of understanding between the
159 parties and once approved will go forward for gift acceptance..
- 160 b) Fourth of July Fireworks: Dave Ungar drafted a letter to Fairfield
161 County Bank for their consideration. The intent of the letter is
162 asking the bank to consider increasing their event sponsorship back
163 to prior year's level. The Commission will review and approve
164 or change the letter prior to Dave sending it out.
- 165 3) New Business:
- 166 a) Weston Lacrosse – Temporary Lighting: Weston Lacrosse Club
167 requested temporary lights on the field between the Middle School and
168 High School for use with evening practices in the spring. P&R referred
169 them to the Board of Education since the fields are their responsibility.
- 170 4) Report of standing committees:
- 171 a) Administrative Committee: Mr. Ungar distributed an Activity
172 Bottom Line Report for February,
- 173 Mr. Ungar also reported on the Board of Finance review of the
174 Town Operating and Capital Budgets this evening. The First
175 Selectmen will present the P&R Budget to the Finance Board and if
176 there are any questions we will be there to answer them.
- 177 b) Aquatics: Mr. Ungar reports that all aquatics facilities are in good
178 working order. The HVAC unit will be installed late spring or early
179 summer.
- 180 c) Fields:
- 181 i) Turf Replacement. A committee has been formed to start the
182 process of turf replacement on the Lower turf field scheduled
183 for this summer. First meeting is Friday march 14th.
- 184 ii) Mr. Ungar reported on the status of the proposed renovations to
185 Coley Field. Sports Turf Specialties has been contracted to
186 perform the renovation on Coley field. Schedule is for a mid-
187 May renovation.
- 188 iii) Spring field scheduling meeting with the Weston Youth Sports
189 Clubs is scheduled to be held Wednesday March 12th at 7:30 pm
190 at the recreation office.
- 191 d) Parks: Mr. Ungar is satisfied with the conditions of the parks.
- 192 e) Programs: Mr. Ungar reported the new program for a fifth grade
193 ski trip was cancelled due to school cancellation. 35 students had
194 registered for the trip.

- 195 Two new programs were discussed, Swim and Gym, scheduled for
196 March 15th and Lulu Hoops, a hula hoop fitness program for WIS
197 students.
- 198 5) Correspondence: Two letters were distributed to the Commission
199 regarding the proposal for lights at the Stadium field.
- 200 6) Announcements: None.
- 201 7) Adjournment: The Commission adjourned at 9:50 p.m. Bernstein
202 Moved, Juneau second. All in favor 5-0.
- 203 8)
- 204 Respectfully Submitted,
- 205 David E, Ungar
- 206 Director
- 207 Weston Parks & Recreation

