TOWN of WESTON, CONNECTICUT

Incorporated 1787

Parks & Recreation Commission

REGULAR MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES
MONDAY OCTOBER 5, 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, October 5, 2009 at Weston Town Hall. Commissioners present: Eric Albert, Nancy Babyak, Carl Bernstein, David Juneau, and Marc Butlein. Carlos Mello joined the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Commissioners absent: Bob Uzenoff. Staff present: Weston Parks and Recreation Director David Ungar. Public present: Ms. Nancy Hammerslough, Mr. Phil Shaner.

Call to order: Mr. Juneau called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

1) Approval of minutes. Minutes of the September 14, 2009 meeting were approved with no corrections. For: Albert, Babyak, Bernstein, Butlein, Juneau, and Mello. Against: None. Abstain: None

2) Public Forum (occurred prior to item 1 above):

   a) Nancy Hammerslough, regarding adult fitness:
   Ms. Hammerslough and other non-Westport residents using the Senior Center in Westport for exercise, have been informed non-Westport residents will no longer be allowed to utilize these facilities within the next few months. Ms. Hammerslough emphasized the need for adults in Weston to gain access to workout facilities, including exercise machines and qualified personnel to assist in the use of those machines. She is looking for space, equipment, and programs. She has spoken to some people running for BOE positions, as well as Police Commission Chair Rick

Phillips. Ms. Hammerslough seeks WPRC support in pursuing these facilities. The WPRC discussed various potential facilities in town, including the Norfield Grange, Kinderland, and East House of Hurlbutt Elementary. The WPRC questioned what the demand for such facilities was; Mr. Mello will find out how many Weston residents currently utilize the Westport Senior Center. Ms. Hammerslough may write a letter to the Weston Forum to determine demand for such facilities/programs in Weston.

b) Phil Shaner, Weston Soccer Club (WSC) President, regarding one-day jamboree:
Mr. Shaner followed up on his email correspondence of 9/30/09 to outline Soccer Club's plan to host a jamboree on 10/17/09, sponsored by Kohl's stores. The purpose is to enjoy some good soccer and to get Weston Soccer more involved with soccer in greater Fairfield County. WSC will coordinate volunteers, police, field lining, set-up of goals, etc. Dave Ungar will stake or paint sprinkler heads so any tent stakes sunk by Kohl's will not hit irrigation lines. Mr. Shaner said the play would last for one afternoon and involve about the same number of players/play MFP normally sees for soccer on a Saturday. Mr. Mello voiced WPR's three primary concerns:

i) Sponsoring program (WSC) will clean up

ii) Insurance coverage Kohl's/Town of Weston (Mr. Ungar indicated the town's policy would cover this event)

iii) Damage responsibility –Mr. Shaner said WSC and Kohl's will cover costs to repair any damage. Mr. Shaner will coordinate with Mr. Ungar as to irrigation line location and avoidance thereof. Proposed area for tent is not near any buried electrical lines, according to Mr. Ungar.

3) Unfinished Business

a) Action item follow-up.

i) 2009 -10 Mr. Ungar learned from Weston Building Inspector Rack Gleason that Mr. Gleason sees no need for lightening protection at the new tower and picnic pavilion near the BSP pond. This item is now closed.

ii) 2009-16 Mr. Ungar sent Ms. Lynn Steven's report on BSP Pond attendance to WPRC members via email. This item is now closed.

iii) 2009-17 Rain Sensor at MFP. This item has been deferred until March, 2010, as watering needs at MFP have largely subsided for the remainder of 2009, and winter weather may shorten the sensor's life.

iv) 2009-18 Mr. Ungar distributed the Programs spreadsheet via email to the WPRC on 10/5/09. This item is now closed.

b) Other Unfinished Business

i) MFP Field #1 Renovation – update: Mr. Ungar stated that Stecks had performed a second seeding of the field – this time slice seeding. Fertilizer was then applied and the grass is growing very nicely. Users are cooperating by staying off the field. Other MFP fields are holding up well, even with Field #1 being out of service.

4) Reports of standing committees and resulting motions:

a) Administrative Committee (Mr. Juneau). No Report

i) Mr. Juneau asked Mr. Albert if he had a preference on which WPRC committee he would like to serve. Mr. Albert stated he would be happy to go where he is most needed.

b) Aquatics Committee (Mr. Mello). Mr. Ungar reported:

i) 2009 BSP Pond Attendance Report: The commission reviewed Aquatics Director Lynn Stevens' report. Mssrs. Butlein and Mello noted that, with approximate annual maintenance costs of $35,000, serving 268 households, Weston spent roughly $130 per family served in 2009. This is about what Parks and Recreation charged as recently as 2007 for a family season pass. In 2009, for the second year in a row, Parks and Recreation did not charge for pond admission. See attached BSP 2009 Attendance report for more information.

ii) Middle School Pool is running well according to Mr. Ungar.

c) Fields Committee (Mssrs. Bernstein and Juneau)

i) Revson Field: Mr. Ungar is finding it difficult to establish and maintain healthy turf at Revson due to continued poor drainage as well as prohibited use of pesticides on campus fields.

ii) Mr. Ungar: Other campus fields are holding up well.

iii) Booster Barn. Mr. Mello: Booster Barn is not completed yet. Boosters are selling food from tents.

d) Programs Committee (Ms. Babyak and Mr. Butlein)

i) Programs Report: The commission reviewed the spreadsheet report update provided by Mr. Ungar. With few exceptions, enrollment numbers in WPRC sponsored programs have shown steady increases, over the past 2-4 years. See attached Programs report for more information.

e) Parks Committee (Mr. Bernstein)

i) Weston Parks Project ("WPP") Playground: Mr. Ungar reported that WPP member Samantha Parker wants to spend WPP's remaining funds on a gazebo with footings, instead of a gazebo with a concrete foundation, as recommended by WPP project manager Cory Attra. Although Mr. Attra is no longer involved with this project, WPRC has concerns about executing an aspect of the project that did not meet his standard for a municipal structure. Mr. Bernstein will contact Mr. Attra to possibly gain more insight into Mr. Attra's recommendation. Mr. Bernstein will report back to WPRC.

ii) MFP History Sign: Mr. Ungar has placed a temporary sign at MFP in the proposed location for the permanent sign. If no objections are voiced by WPRC members by 10/19/09, Mr. Ungar will have the permanent sign installed at that location.

5) New Business

a) Soccer Club Jamboree Request – see Public Forum above.

b) 2009 BSP Pond Report – see item 4)b)i) above (Aquatics).

c) Program Report Spreadsheet – see item 4)d)i) above (Programs)

6) Correspondence - none

7) Announcements, remarks for the good of the order.

a) Best of luck to Dave Ungar on his upcoming back surgery.

b) Parks and Recreation staff Mr. Bill Shaffer and Ms. Lynn Stevens will attend the November regular meeting to discuss their respective programs.

c) Mr. Juneau announced he had recently completed a 50 kilometer trail running race in Vermont and he thanked his well-wishers on the WPRC.

8) Adjournment: The commission adjourned at 9:50 p.m., Bernstein/Babyak motion and second. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Juneau

147 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.

2009-15 Mr. Ungar will arrange for Fire/Police/EMS for Movie Night on September 5, 2009. Completed and closed September 14, 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.

2009-18 Opened on 9/14/09, Mr. Ungar will distribute the Programs spreadsheet prior to the November regular meeting. Completed and closed October 5, 2009.

2009-19 Opened on 10/5/09, Carlos Mello will get data on Weston residents utilizing the Westport Senior Center.

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.

148