

Torrington Parks and Recreation Commission

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday, November 4, 2009

Chairperson Patricia Fairchild called to order a regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission on Wednesday, November 4, 2009, at 6:00 P.M. at the Armory. In attendance were Vice Chairman Fran Ducotey, Secretary Dan Lovallo, Commissioners Jim Pescatore and Duke Wall, Superintendent Brett Simmons, and Recreation Director Donna Winn.

On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Dan Lovallo, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2009 meeting.

On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Fran Ducotey, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the special meeting of November 2, 2009.

Correspondence

- A thank you letter from the Fire Department to Brett Simmons for helping the department prepare for its Open House.
- Letter from a Commissioner for the Cheshire Men's Softball League in regard to the bats that they use.
- A letter from Bernice Gioia of the Teen Center in regard to a field trip that was taken by some of the members of the Center.

Citizen's Comments

Edward Matthews and Scott Rosengrant of Torrington Youth Soccer addressed the Commission with the desire to work with the Department on improvements at Alvord Park. Chairperson Fairchild suggested that they meet with Superintendent Simmons to begin discussion of their proposals.

Mr. Knowles and Mr. Timms presented Commissioners with certificates of appreciation from the Torrington Memorial Detachment 1142, Marine Corps League for their support in the placing of a sign in front of the Armory.

Committee Updates

Facility Use

On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Dan Lovallo, the Commission voted unanimously to accept the following pre-approved facility requests.

- Torrington Police Department for Coe Memorial Park on November 10 and 12.
- Marine Detachment 1142 for the Armory on November 17.

On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Fran Ducotey, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the request of Oliver Wolcott Technical School for the Armory on November 25 and 27 for basketball practice. The fees will be waived for November 25th and maintenance fees will be charged for November 27th.

Programs

Recreation Director Donna Winn reported on the following:

- The Halloween Party turned out very well.
- Movie Night at Fuessenich Park was attended by about 70 people.
- Arts and Crafts Festival for November 14 has been cancelled.
- She has been conversing with the owner of Brazen Bette's and Jessica Hodorski on the craft fair to be held at Coe Memorial Park on December 5th.
- The Toy Shower for Christmas Village has been planned at the Yankee Pedlar. Jim Pescatore will work with Rob Persechino on the snacks to be served.
- All the Santa wigs are washed and we will buy some new ones as a precaution in the wake of the H1N1 flu virus.
- The parade for the opening of Christmas Village is being planned.
- A requisition for the horse and buggy has been submitted.

Superintendent Simmons added the following concerning Christmas Village:

- Parade participants should park or be dropped off in the shopping plaza lot to allow for safety in Coe Place.
- The Department is taking measures in regard to precautions for visitors and employees in the wake of the H1N1 flu outbreak.
- Three adult reindeer and one baby reindeer have been secured.
- The rooms at the Village are being readied.
- Brett is working on ordering new lights for the front of the Village.

Sports

A survey has been prepared that will be sent out to the managers of the men's and women's softball leagues in regard to issues talked about at the Commission's special meeting.

Capital

Superintendent Simmons passed out a summary sheet which listed the projects that have been discussed at the subcommittee meeting and will be undertaken by the Department. On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Dan Lovallo, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the summary of projects as presented by the Superintendent.

Facility Operations

Superintendent Simmons passed out a list of projects that the Department has recently completed, are currently being worked on, or are upcoming. Some other projects included: the skate park which could not be painted because of the weather; the stipend letters will be sent out as there was no feedback from the City Council; discussions with the Purchasing Agent in regard to the park signs; and the bike path where the paving is almost complete and we will need to be involved in the maintenance.

Coe Memorial Park

Superintendent Simmons said that he will be working with Mike Zaharek in regard to the pruning and cabling of trees in the Park. The gardeners are preparing their annual report and their contract renewal. Commissioners voiced their satisfaction with their work this year.

Old Business: None

New Business

Superintendent Simmons distributed copies of the sledding and skating rules for Major Besse Park. On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Dan Lovallo, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the rules for skating and sledding at Major Besse Park.

The demo for new software for the Department will be held on Monday, November 9th at 3:00 P.M. at the Armory.

The playground equipment at Jiggs Donahue is in disrepair and will possibly be removed.

The Department will purchase a new dehumidifier for the basement of the Civic Center. On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Dan Lovallo, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the purchase of the dehumidifier with funds being taken from the Rec 200 account.

Adjournment

On a motion by Dan Lovallo with a second by Jim Pescatore, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Fairchild, Chairperson and Acting Secretary