

Torrington Parks and Recreation Commission

Minutes of December 2, 2009 Meeting

Chairperson Patricia Fairchild called to order a regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission on Wednesday, December 2, 2009, at 6:00 P.M. in 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 Fran Ducotey, the Commission voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the November 4, 2009 regular Commission meeting.

On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Dan Lovallo. The Commission voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the special meeting held on November 9, 2009.

Correspondence

Chairman Fairchild read a "thank you" card from Barbara Bambakidou for her being chosen to light the city tree during the Light Up Main festivities.

On a motion by Dan Lovallo with a second by Jim Pescatore, the Commission voted unanimously to change the order of the agenda and do Facility Use prior to Citizen's Comments.

Facility Use

Primetime House for Coe Memorial Park on Friday, December 11, 2009. Motion to approve by Jim Pescatore, seconded by Dan Lovallo with unanimous approval. Maintenance fees.

Jerry Hobert for USA/CT Boxing for the Armory on March 15. Motion to approve without the sale of alcohol by Duke Wall with a second by Fran Ducotey and unanimous approval. Maintenance fees.

Torrington Fire Department requesting Coe Memorial Park for Fire Marshal class on June 1, 2010. Motion to approve by Dan Lovallo with a second by Fran Ducotey and unanimous approval.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving for Coe Memorial Park on May 13, 2010, and September 9, 2010. Motion to approve by Dan Lovallo with a second by Jim Pescatore and unanimous approval. Maintenance fees.

Citizen's Comments

Paul Gerbi addressed the Commission in regards to the proposed ban on certain softball bats. He would like the Commission to get the opinions of more of the players before making this decision.

Programs

Donna Winn reported:

- Howl-a-day program was cancelled due to poor response.

- Passed out fliers with information regarding the Toy Shower and the Christmas Village Parade as well as copies of the corresponding press releases.
- Brett, Fran, and Jim will be on City Views next week.
- There are seventeen participants in the parade.
- We need to choose a picture for this year's thank you cards.
- Light Up Main events went very well.

Fran Ducotey reported that he had been contacted by representatives of the City in regards to their being included in the pre-opening night of Christmas Village. The Commission will look into this for next year.

Sports

Results from the recent survey indicated a very low percentage of returns. Commissioner Lovallo stated that more opinions of players are needed. Duke Wall showed a 1997 newspaper article in which titanium bats were banned. Jim Pescatore suggested meeting with the softball players' committee.

On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Dan Lovallo, the Commission voted unanimously to set up a meeting with the players' committee. This meeting will take place on January 13, 2010 at 6:00 P.M.

Capital

Brett handed out copies of the latest summary of capital projects. He spoke in detail of many of the projects. He will look into what to do with the shelter that is stored at the Water Pollution Plant. The Capital Plan for next year must be handed into the Mayor by January 1st, so the Commission will hold a special meeting on a tentative plan on December 16. Brett is looking into starting a Capital Reserve budget for large projects that will need to be funded in the future.

On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Dan Lovallo, the Commission voted unanimously to accept the Capital Report.

Facility Operations

Brett updated Commissioners by handing out a flyer detailing projects recently completed and current projects.

Coe Memorial Park

Brett Simmons and Pat Fairchild reported on the previously held Coe Memorial Park Advisory Committee meeting. They informed the Commission on the vote of the committee to delay the transplanting of the shrubs until the spring. A discussion on this matter took place with Commissioner Ducotey answering questions about this transplanting. On a motion by Dan Lovallo with second by Fran Ducotey, the Commission voted unanimously to go with the recommendation of the Still River gardeners and do the transplanting at this time.

Another discussion centered around the use of Wilt Pruf on the boxwoods as suggested by the gardeners. The advisory committee voted against its use. Once again Fran Ducotey spoke about his experience in the use of Wilt Pruf. On a motion by Dan Lovallo with second by Jim Pescatore, the Commission voted unanimously to allow the use of Wilt Pruf on the boxwoods in Coe Memorial Park as suggested by the Still River gardeners.

Commissioners commented on the excellent quality of the annual report as presented by the gardeners. All felt that they have done a great job in the park this year. On a motion by Duke Wall with a second by Dan Lovallo, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend to the City Council that the contract for Still River Gardens be extended for another year per the terms of the contract.

Old Business

Commissioners received a letter from Tom Keslow in regards to his intent to run the concession at Fuessenich Park for another year. All Commissioners felt that Tom did an excellent job. On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Duke Wall, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend to the City Council that Tom Keslow's contract be renewed for another year.

New Business

Brett passed out information on ActiveNet- Recreation Management Software. He explained how this software will enhance the daily operation of the department. On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Fran Ducotey, the Commission voted unanimously to purchase ActiveNet.

Approval of 2010 Meeting Schedule

On a motion by Dan Lovallo with a second by Fran Ducotey, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the calendar of meetings for the year 2010.

Election of Officers

On a motion by Secretary Dan Lovallo with second by Duke Wall, the Commission voted unanimously to keep the present slate of officers for the next Commission year.

Other Business

Brett stated that the playground at Jiggs Donahue is in very bad disrepair. He explained about other improvements that he'd like to make to that site. This work would wait until Spring. On a motion by Duke Wall with a second by Fran Ducotey, the Commission voted unanimously to remove the playscape at Jiggs Donahue as the schedule permits.

On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Fran Ducotey, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:10 P.M.

Patricia Fairchild

Chairperson and Acting Secretary

