

Torrington Parks and Recreation Commission

Minutes of August 5, 2009 Meeting

Chairperson Patricia A. Fairchild called to order a regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission at 6:15 P.M. at the Armory on Wednesday, August 5, 2009. In attendance were Secretary Dan Lovallo, Commissioner Jim Pescatore, and Superintendent Brett Simmons.

On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Dan Lovallo, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2009 Commission meeting.

Correspondence

- Ernst Miller in regard to tennis facilities in Torrington.
- Richard Reynolds Sr. in regard to the basketball court at Durand Street.
- Paul Gerbi in regard to the softball choice of this season.
- Chief Maccalous of the Drakeville Volunteer Fire Department sent a final executed copy of the "General Use Lease" for the land across from the Drakeville Fire Station.

Citizen's Comments

Jerry Hobert of Holyoke, MA presented the Commission with his plans for requesting the Armory for a boxing match on November 11, 2009. This will involve the U.S. Marines Traveling Boxing Team. As the Commission had not received the formal request form, he gave details about what his request entailed.

Facility Requests

- On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Dan Lovallo, the Commission voted unanimously to approve Artwell's request for Besse Pool and Besse Pond Area on August 15, 2009.
- On a motion by Dan Lovallo with a second by Jim Pescatore, the Commission voted unanimously to approve Salvation Army's request for Coe Memorial Park with appropriate fees on September 26, 2009.
- On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Dan Lovallo, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Mental Health Association's request for Bishop Donnelly field on September 23, 2009.
- On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Dan Lovallo, the Commission voted unanimously to approve Susan B. Anthony's request for Coe Memorial Park with appropriate fees on October 14, 2009.
- On a motion by Dan Lovallo with a second by Jim Pescatore, the Commission voted unanimously to approve PAL's request for the Armory on August 25, 26, and 27.

- On a motion by Dan Lovallo with a second by Jim Pescatore, the Commission voted unanimously to approve Torrington Youth Soccer's request for Bishop Donnelly field from August 25 to November 25, 2009.
- On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Dan Lovallo, the Commission voted unanimously to approve AME Zion Church's request for Jiggs Donahue Park on August 22, 2009 with no hook up for sound and with them renting portable toilets under the advisement of our department as to their placement.
- On a motion by Dan Lovallo with a second by Jim Pescatore, the Commission voted unanimously to reject without prejudice the request of Tom Eucalitto for a concert at the Armory on December 19.
- On a motion by Dan Lovallo with a second by Jim Pescatore, the Commission voted unanimously to table the request of Torrington Legion for fall baseball pending more information.
- On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Dan Lovallo. The Commission voted unanimously to have the Sports Committee meet with Mr. Pizarro in regards to his requests for baseball leagues for disadvantaged children in the community.
- On a motion by Dan Lovallo with second by Jim Pescatore, the Commission voted unanimously to approve Miss Stacey's request for the Armory on October 15, 2009.
- On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Dan Lovallo, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Mayor's request for Coe Memorial Park on October 12, 2009, for Columbus Day activities.

Program Update

In the absence of Recreation Director Donna Winn, Superintendent Brett Simmons updated the Commission on the following:

- Summer playground program will end next week and everything went well this year.
- The Sky Hawks camp is in progress with about a dozen children participating.
- The Teen Center will open shortly. Commissioner Pescatore is donating a big screen TV to the center.
- The fall brochure is in the process of being formulated.
- The Block Party will be held on August 21st at Coe Memorial Park with entertainment for children and adults.
- The concert series is going very well.

Coe Memorial Park Update

Pat Fairchild updated the Commission on the meeting which was held prior to the Commission meeting. Among the concerns of the Advisory Committee was the safety and security at the Park. Superintendent Simmons will meet with the Torrington Police in regard to getting increased patrols in the Park.

Christmas Village Update

Bill Sulkazi spoke about his efforts in having legislation passed in favor of our being able to rent reindeer from out of state. Governor Rell signed this bill on July 9, 2009. Bill has already secured four reindeer from a farm in New York and he has a veterinarian on board for their care. Bill will work with Brett Simmons in regard to the details of all of this.

The Commission will meet in September at the Village to talk about plans and preparations for the coming season.

Old Business

Fireworks Update

As all went well for this year's celebration, Brett is working with Giordano Signs for a sign displaying the names of the donors to the fireworks fund which will be displayed at the Armory.

Lowe's Lime Rock Update

Brett shared pictures of this event with the Commission. It was a very successful community event. Brett is working toward putting pictures of all events on our website.

New Business

Superintendent Simmons stated that he has advised the representatives of Midget Football to fill out the required field request forms.

Superintendent's Report

Capital Project Update

Superintendent Simmons stated that after meeting with the Capital Projects subcommittee, it was decided to tackle many of the smaller projects this year. He provided Commissioners with the list of these projects as well as those that are underway at this time and those that he would like to see in the future. On a motion by Jim Pescatore with second by Dan Lovallo, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the suggested capital projects for \$115,000.

In order to insure that Fuessenich Park is kept in quality condition not only for use by local teams, but for any prospective new team, Commissioners realize that some necessary improvements need to be made. One such major improvement is the replacement of the bleachers which have been in need of replacement for a while. On a motion by Dan Lovallo with a second by Jim Pescatore, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend to the City Council that they look into funds from the Fuessenich Park Partnership to purchase the new bleachers for Fuessenich.

On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Dan Lovallo, the Commission voted unanimously to withdraw \$25,000 from the Besse Trust for repairs to the area at the pool, including the pump house, fence repairs, and electrical repairs.

Facilities Update

Superintendent Simmons updated the Commission on the following:

- Gates are being installed at the parks
- Rain has taken its toll on our fields
- Landscaping work has been done at Borzani Park
- Work has been done at the pool
- A trash receptacle and bench have been placed at Patterson Park

Budget Update

Brett gave Commissioners copies of the latest budgets. The annual maintenance for the Armory floor has been taken out of the capital side of the budget and placed in the operating budget. Hopefully, the floor will be refinished in the first few weeks of September.

Other Business

Sports Stipends

The letters and the applications have been sent out to the groups who may be interested in applying for the reduced stipends this year. We are somewhat limited as to the financial information that we can request from the organizations.

Fuessenich Park

This matter was taken up during the Capital Projects portion.

Adjournment

On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Dan Lovallo, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Fairchild

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Chairperson and Acting Recording Secretary