



Board of Parks & Recreation

Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2008

Board Attendees: Richard Wellington, Diane Wren, Robert Oca, John Craine, Nancy Caplan, Scott Johnson and Rick Capozza

Guest Attendees: Joseph Siciliano, Bruce Spaman, David D'Andrea, Tom Greco, Toni Wyman, Donald Mohr, Lin Lavery, John Conte, Jonathan Asch, Gary Oztemel, Sue Baker, Peter Mandras, and Fred Walters

Not Attending: Winston Robinson and Will Dunster

I. Meeting called to order at 6:03pm.

II. **Motion made, seconded, and approved to accept the Minutes of the July 30, 2008 Meeting, 7-0-0.**

III. **Director's Report, Joseph Siciliano**

Mr. Siciliano reported the trees at the golf course have been posted for removal. The Planning and Zoning Commission will meet in October to finalize the site plan. The bid documents have been drafted and will be sent to the Purchasing Department.

Mr. Siciliano reported he is working with the Boater User Group to collect information in the boating community dealing with issues, objectives and initiatives. Information on how to become a member of the Boater User Group was posted on the Town website, at the four marinas and sent to the public/private yacht clubs. As of Monday, September 22nd only one person has formally submitted their name. Mr. Siciliano asked Craig Whitcomb to submit the information again to see if any other interested parties respond.

Mr. Siciliano reported he is in the process of collecting information and producing a report on the Beach Policy, specifically the Island operations. Once complete he will work with the Town Attorney to come up with a proposal to go before the Board of Selectmen in October. The following topics will be covered in the report:

Point of Sale of Day Passes
Parking Control-Paying at lots
Cash Control at the Dock
Capacity of Islands
Flammable Materials
Glassware on the Beach
Alcohol
Picnic Tables
Barbecuing

IV. Committee Reports

Parks and Recreation Foundation, Nancy Caplan

Ms. Caplan introduced John Conte, Project Leader for the Byram Pool Project.

Mr. Conte gave an update on the Byram Pool Project. The project includes replacing the existing pool completely and building the new facility to the north. The old pool area will be a waterfront picnic area. The existing pool building will be replaced. Approximately 50 new parking spaces will be added by removing and replacing the existing concession stand, check in booth, and public bathrooms with a new entry building at the head of the parking lot. The project focuses on energy efficient systems and state of the art construction methods. The project is anticipated to begin July 2009.

Ms. Lavery stated that the new pool will be open to Greenwich residents only, however everyone will have access to the park.

Ms. Lavery added the Federal Court in Connecticut ruled that a public pool can be for residents only because it does not fall under the same first amendment right as a beach does.

Fields Report, Bruce Spaman

Mr. Spaman distributed a report on the update of fields. Mr. Spaman reported he has contracted a consultant to complete a report/management plan on the organic program. The report is expected to be completed in October. The program will be utilized on fields based on priority with a focus on usability and playability. The plan is \$11,000, which would have been the cost for the herbicide application, therefore funds were shifted.

Mr. Spaman added he is concerned about the safety and usability of the fields due to the crabgrass.

Mr. Siciliano stated some play may be lost due to field conditions.

V. Chairman's Report, Ric Wellington

Mr. Wellington reported that there has been an inquiry from a member of the public on whether the board minutes should be posted on the Town website, currently the practice is that the board resolutions are posted to the website and complete minutes are available upon request. Upon further discussion, the following motion by Mr. Bob Oca seconded by Mr. Scott Johnson was adopted:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Parks and Recreation will maintain the current practice of posting board agendas and resolutions to the Town website, full minutes will be available upon request. 7-0-0

Mr. Wellington acknowledged that the department has begun their work on the operating budget and the CIP for fiscal year 2009-2010.

Mr. Wellington announced Tom Greco will make a report out on the department's CIP and operating budget process at the October Board meeting.

Mr. Wellington stated the department is preparing an evaluation of the impact of changes in the ferry boat policies which include the beach policy and fees. Mr. Wellington asked Ms. Caplan to

chair a subcommittee to include Mr. Craine and Mr. Capozza for review of the information that the department is compiling and report back to the Board, there were no objections.

Mr. Wellington reported that First Selectman, Peter Tesei has identified public athletic fields and facilities as a priority initiative. Mr. Tesei will form a work group which will include Board members. Mr. Wellington acknowledged the support of the Board of Parks and Recreation for the First Selectman's initiative on athletic fields, facilities and courts.

VI. Dog Park, Diane Wren

Ms. Wren announced she Gary Oztemel and Bruce Spaman met at the dog park and agreed to look into the following:

1. Expanding the park to include trees and a water station inside the park
2. Creating an entrance area and exit areas next to each other but separate from each other
3. Create the ability for the public to open the gate between the large and small dog areas when there are no small dogs present
4. Have a portable fence to let the larger area rest to grow grass
5. Additional trees at the south side with benches underneath

Ms. Wren motioned the following with a second from Mr. Oca:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Parks and Recreation requests the Department of Parks and Recreation pursue adding shade trees to the dog park by relocating the fence on the north side and planting additional trees on the south side, along with a reconfiguration of internal fences for safety and maintenance. 7-0-0

Coastal Resources, John Craine

Mr. Craine reported on the following three key initiatives:

- Waterways Management Project
 - Planning meeting, harbor tour, a fly over will take place in the near future
- Dredging Project is moving forward
- Selection of new Harbormaster
 - Jonathan Asch

Mr. Craine introduced new Harbormaster Jonathan Asch. Mr. Asch talked about his background and discussed his desire to work with the department to maintain safety in the waterways with a focus on educating boaters, better marked channels, and standardization of moorings.

Mr. Craine added that there has been positive feedback from the initial meetings. Mr. Asch indicated he is working on a system to log and prioritize complaints.

Charter Review, Robert Oca

Mr. Oca reported there will be a draft of Charter change considerations available at the October Board Meeting.

Plan of Conservation and Development, Scott Johnson

Mr. Johnson reported his goal is to get comments on the draft POCD to Diane Fox, Town Planner by 9/25/08. Mr. Johnson identified the errors and omissions he discovered in the report.

Mr. Wellington expressed appreciation to Mr. Johnson on behalf of the entire board for all the work and effort he has put into the review of the draft POCD. Mr. Wellington urged board members to get their comments in to Mr. Johnson as soon as possible.

Golf Report, David D’Andrea

Mr. D’Andrea reported there will be a Planning and Zoning Commission meeting for the approval of the Final Site Plan for the proposed Administration/Golf Center Building on October 7th. The plans should be in purchasing shortly to begin the bid process.

Mr. D’Andrea reported on the Capital projects: Bunker renovations on the 10th and 18th holes will begin November 3rd. The upgrade to the maintenance storage facility is expected to be completed in the off season.

Mr. D’Andrea stated he would be happy to entertain any questions on the survey on a one on one basis.

Mr. Oca suggested that Mr. Monelli present the final plans to the Board. Mr. D’Andrea agreed to talk to Mr. Monelli and ask him to review the final plans with the Board.

Parks, Ric Wellington

Mr. Wellington reported on the following on behalf of Mr. Dunster:

- Pete and the Recreation team are in full swing with soccer and other sports and doing well.
- Field distribution has been without major issues
- Fields are being over seeded and aerated.

Nominations Committee, Robert Oca

Mr. Oca asked for any nominations for Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Parks and Recreation. There were none. Motion by Mr. Oca seconded by Mr. Capozza:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Parks and Recreation postpone the elections until the November 19th meeting. 7-0-0

Mr. Wellington encouraged board members to consider stepping up to the positions of Chair and Vice Chair.

VII. Unfinished Business

None

VIII. New Business

None

IX. Public Comment

X. Motion to adjourn unanimously approved at 7:25 pm.