



Board of Parks & Recreation

Meeting Minutes

October 29, 2008

Board Attendees: Richard Wellington, Diane Wren, John Craine, Nancy Caplan, Scott Johnson, Winston Robinson, and Will Dunster

Guest Attendees: Joseph Siciliano, Bruce Spaman, David D'Andrea, Peter Mandras, and Michael Strange.

Not Attending: Robert Oca, and Rick Capozza

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:05
- II. **Motion made, seconded, and approved to accept the Minutes of the September 24, 2008 Meeting, 7-0-0.**

III. **Chairman's Report, Ric Wellington**

Mr. Wellington reported a memo from the Law Department was distributed prior to the meeting, amending the Freedom of Information Act, (FOIA). Mr. Wellington acknowledged that the new requirement of the FOIA requires that meeting minutes be available for distribution and posted on the website within 7 days of the meeting. Mr. Wellington asked that all committee chairs inform Lenore so that she may distribute and post notification no later than 24 hours before the meeting is to take place.

Mr. Wellington is preparing the 2009 Board meeting schedule and proposed that the Board consider combining the November and December meetings.

The following motion was made, seconded and approved;

RESOLVED, that the Board of Parks and Recreation agrees to combine the November and December Board meetings to be held on the first Wednesday in December 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wellington distributed the scheduled monthly calendar and proposed that the November discussion on the Golf Revolving Fund be tabled and discussions take place on user fees and any park policy changes. There were no objections.

Mr. Wellington announced the First Selectman invited representatives from athletic fields and facility user groups as well as Greenwich recreational organizations to discuss field and facility needs and allocations. At this meeting the following four questions were posed:

What do we have and how do we prioritize it?

What is the relative competitiveness of athletic fields and facilities?

What do we need?
What are the alternatives for adding capacity?

The findings and feedback have been collated and sent to the First Selectman. The First Selectman is working with the group of facilitators and will likely appoint a working coalition in the near future. The purpose of the coalition will be to define the needs and priorities of users of athletic fields and facilities and identify solutions.

Mr. Wellington announced a group representing Greenwich High School girls and boys hockey met with department officials and the First Selectman. This group feels that Greenwich High School should receive priority status for in season scheduling of the Dorothy Hamill Rink. It was suggested that the department draft a written allocation policy; this has not yet been decided.

Mr. Wellington suggested Mr. Dunster and Ms. Wren meet with the department to determine if a written policy is necessary.

Mr. Siciliano added the department has put together some background information including a breakout of hours and schedule snapshots during the skating season. (distributed).

Mr. Siciliano stated there is a limited amount of “prime time” which runs from 3:00 pm – 9:00 pm. and this “Prime Time” is in high demand. There is competition between ice hockey, figure skating and general public use. Mr. Siciliano suggested the discussion is worthwhile because it will clarify any misinformation. Currently the department allots the high school hours, the Athletic Director then works with his coaches to divvy up the time based on their need. Upon extensive discussion, Mr. Siciliano stated the department will continue to work with the Athletic Director to resolve the matter. Discussion on the maintenance program at the rink will take place in November.

IV. Committee Reports

Beach/Parks Committee, Nancy Caplan

Ms. Caplan announced the committee met on October 21st. At the meeting the following topics were discussed:

- Fees- currently under review by the department and will be covered at the November Board Meeting
- Park Attendance-review of statistics
- Park Passes-new distribution plan, service the western side of town
- Cash Control
- Beach Parking-working with Parking Services to improve ferry parking
- Beach Ferry-condition and maximum passenger capacities
- Operational Issues-additional education of patrons and additional signage

Mr. Siciliano announced he put together a report for the Board of Selectmen on the ferry access protocol, pending approval from the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Siciliano also reported the funds for the new ferry have been lapsed into next year’s capital requests. The money was better off spent on the Grass Island dredging project. Mr. Siciliano reported that he and Mr. Walters have worked on plans to operate one ferry on a triangle run,

from Island Beach to Captains Island to Greenwich Harbor this will increase the service to the islands and give the option to go between islands.

Coastal Resources Committee, John Craine

Mr. Craine reported the committee met on October 16th to discuss the following key issues:

- Jonathan Asch-New Harbormaster-Meeting with commodores, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, commercial marine operators
- Institutional Framework for Waterways Management Report by Geoff Steadman-Developing a comprehensive study of coastal resources.

Mr. Craine suggested migrating the Coastal Resources Committee into a community based group called the Selectman's Advisory Committee. Mr. Wellington suggested the Board should review the Institutional Framework for Waterways Management Report for prior to making the decision on migrating to a Selectman's Advisory Committee.

Dog Park, Diane Wren

Ms. Wren reported she will be meeting Bruce Spaman at the dog park 10/30/08 and she will report back in November.

Charter Review, Ric Wellington

Mr. Wellington reported that he received a draft of the proposed revisions to section 80 of the Municipal Code. The draft will be forwarded to the First Selectman and will be presented to the Board at the November meeting.

CIP, Joseph Siciliano

Mr. Siciliano distributed and reviewed each of the items for 2009/2010 CIP.

The following items have been moved from the Parks and Recreation budget:

- Artificial Turf carpet replacement moved to the Board of Education budget
- Track resurfacing at the high school has been moved to the Board of Education budget
- Stadium and fields have been scheduled into the Board of Education 15yr plan
- The Byram pool has been moved to the DPW budget
- The turf at the former Cos Cob Power Plant has been moved to the DPW budget

Mr. Siciliano added each building in the system is reviewed by DPW annually and ranked on a point system based on need.

Mr. Siciliano reported the new ferry boat has been moved to the 2009/2010 CIP. Ferry design is estimated to take a minimum of 18 months for approvals. There was extensive discussion on the new boat including, size, passenger capacity, front loading vs. side loading. Mr. Siciliano stated the department is working on boat replacement program that will plan several years ahead for replacement boats.

Queen Anne Building, Joseph Siciliano

Mr. Siciliano reported members of the Greenwich Point Conservancy met with Al Monelli, Wayne Fox and Peter Tesei to talk about how they could execute the project of phase II of the Queen Anne building. It was agreed that the Town would investigate entering into a license agreement with the group for a period of time through the construction to allow the GPC to execute the renovation of phase II (lower exterior) the license agreement will be drawn up by the Law Department. Once the License Agreement is expired the building will then be returned to the Town.

Mr. Siciliano reported the department has asked for \$647,000 in additional dredging funds. The Project is permitted for 24,000 cubic yards at Grass Island. The specifics are currently being worked out as to the allocation of the 24,000 cubic yards. A pre-dredge survey was conducted in 05-06 and provided an estimated amount of cubic yards. There is another pre-dredge survey currently being conducted.

Mr. Siciliano suggests dredge projects be planned 10 years out. The tentative start date for the Grass Island Dredge is December 1, 2008. The 19,000 cubic yards of contaminated material needs to be dredged by December 15, 2008, while the remaining needs to be dredged by January 31, 2009. The project will run 15 days consecutively for 24 hours a day. The division is working with the Health Department to notify the residents and get an exception to the noise ordinance.

Fields, Bruce Spaman

Mr. Spaman reported baseball fields are being prepared for play. Three baseball fields at Binney Park have been reconditioned, Tufel field has been reconstructed, Hamill Rink has been reconstructed and irrigated.

Mr. Spaman announced the organic consultant has taken soil analysis from most of the fields and is putting together a detailed report on each location. A detailed report is forthcoming.

Mr. Spaman added the department could contribute an estimated 33-40% of the initial labor with the organic program.

Mr. Spaman stated the Tree Ordinance should be before the RTM in December.

V. Liaison Reports

Golf Report, Mr. Robinson

Mr. Robinson reported the following:

- The Golf User Group met on October 20th.
- The Course is in good condition
- The new administration building was approved by Planning and Zoning.

Mr. D'Andrea added the golf center is scheduled for a pre-bid on November 6th; the bid opening is on November 20th.

Mr. D'Andrea announced the bunker renovations on holes 10 and 18 will commence on November 3rd.

Recreation/Parks, Peter Mandras

Mr. Mandras reported the soccer program is ending. Halloween Happenings was a hit and sold out with 300 participants. Basketball is ramping up. The skating rink is moving full speed ahead with their programs. Mr. Mandras announced the following upcoming special events: Jingle Bell Jog, Turkey Trot, Christmas Tree Lighting, and Breakfast with Santa.

Bruce Park, Boundless Playground, Will Dunster

Mr. Dunster reported the bids are in for the Boundless Playground and the park will be closed in the coming weeks to begin dismantling the playground equipment.

Mr. Dunster added he has had no contact with the Environmental Task Force; the meetings have not been posted.

Parks and Recreation Foundation, Nancy Caplan

Ms. Caplan reported the committee for the Byram Pool project has not met, due to timing.

Mr. Siciliano added the Brian's Path project has commenced. Ms. Caplan stated she will have a more detailed report next month.

Nominations Committee, Ric Wellington

Mr. Wellington called for any nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. There were none. Mr. Wellington advised any interested candidates to contact Mr. Oca by the November 19, 2008 meeting.

VI. Unfinished Business

None

VII. New Business

None

VIII. Public Comment

None

IX. Motion to adjourn unanimously approved at 9:06 pm.