



## Board of Parks & Recreation

Meeting Minutes

March 25, 2009

***Please be advised that these minutes are in DRAFT form and will not become "Public Record" until they are formally approved by the Board of Parks and Recreation at their next regularly scheduled meeting planned for April 29, 2009.***

**Board Attendees:** Richard Wellington, John Craine, Rick Capozza, Winston Robinson, Scott Johnson, Robert Oca and William Dunster

**Not Attending:** Nancy Caplan

**Staff Attendees:** Joseph Siciliano, Tom Greco, Peter Mandras, Fred Walters, David D'Andrea and Bruce Spaman

**Guest Attendees:** Sue Baker, Cathy Weisenburger, Toni Wyman, Juliana Staab, Eric Bains, Greg Islan, Nancy Chapin, John Yasetc, Linnea Stenberg, and Susan Richardson

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:03 P.M.
- II. **Motion made, seconded, and approved to accept the Minutes of the February, 25, 2009 Meeting, 7-0-0.**
- III. **Monthly Topic**

### **Golf Report, David D'Andrea**

Mr. D'Andrea reported the following:

- The course is exceptionally clean
- The golf center project is underway; the project was delayed 3-4 weeks. At best the golf course will open April 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- The bunker projects are almost done should be completed by April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Memberships are coming in at a steady pace.
- Working on the finishing touches of the new septic system.

### **IV. Director's Report, Joseph Siciliano**

Mr. Siciliano announced the subject of artificial turf is not on the agenda for the Board of Selectmen Meeting scheduled for March 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Siciliano stated he received communication from P&Z concerning the Cos Cob Power Plant. Mr. Siciliano distributed copies of the communication including an excerpt from the Town Charter on Municipal Improvement.

Mr. Siciliano announced the Board Skating Committee met, he reported the meeting was productive and included discussions on ice time and the value of ice time. There will be another meeting in April.

Mr. Siciliano reported the spring season is picking up; beach cards and permits are being processed and spring programs are underway. The department has obtained approval to hire summer employees.

## **V. Committee and Liaison Reports**

### **Rink Committee, Rick Capozza**

Mr. Capozza reported the committee met. The following were the main topics of discussion:

- Ice allocation process
- Communication
- Greenwich High School priority

### **Recreation, Rick Capozza**

Mr. Capozza reviewed the upcoming events, including summer camps. Spring swim has been canceled; there was not enough notice on pool availability. EGCC is in their busy season with special events. Dorothy Hamill Rink is closed for the season. Registration for 09-10 Cos Cob preschool has been held, currently maintaining a waiting list. The Skatepark is open for the season; Fridays are free admission days.

Mr. Mandras added there has been some difficulty with the installation of the lights at Teufel field, the situation has been resolved and the project is moving forward.

Mr. Mandras stated there is one vendor who is interested in renting the turf at the rink; the option is being weighed against the cost of installation and removal to determine if the expense is justified.

### **RTM, Ric Wellington**

Mr. Wellington reported the RTM met on March 9<sup>th</sup>, there were no topics on the agenda pertaining to Parks and Recreation. The April RTM meeting has been canceled; the next meeting will be on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Wellington announced he attended the Greenwich Civic Center Committee meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup>. He distributed and reviewed their approved mission statement and vision statement. They are now organized as a 501(c)3. The committee is expecting to raise \$250,000.00 for a pre-design before the September RTM Meeting. They anticipate presenting at either the September or October RTM Meeting.

### **Byram Pool, Ric Wellington**

Mr. Wellington reported he has been in contact with Lin Lavery. While the committee did not meet this month, they are active and plan to meet next month.

### **Community Coalition on Recreational Fields and Sites, Ric Wellington**

Mr. Wellington reported the committee met. This committee has been put together by the First Selectman to look at the shortage of athletic fields and facilities.

### **Charter Review Committee, Robert Oca**

Mr. Oca reported the committee met to prepare and finalize the draft of proposed changes, which they hope to circulate to the Board in the coming weeks for review and comment.

### **Coastal Resource Committee, John Craine**

Mr. Craine reported the committee meeting was well attended; with significant input provided. The Rules and Procedures drafted by the committee have been postponed.

Mr. Craine announced returns are coming in from the 270 renewal notices that were mailed.

Mr. Craine thanked Tom Greco and his staff for their assistance in resolving differences in accounting systems.

The next meeting of the First Selectman's Coastal Resources Advisory Committee will be March 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 pm.

Mr. Siciliano explained the next step in the Steadman report is community input meetings. Mr. Steadman will be working on the planning of such meetings. Mr. Siciliano added the final report will be useful in moving regulatory issues through.

### **Turf Fields, Scott Johnson**

Mr. Johnson announced the First Selectman's Office is considering the next step in the power plant site. Mr. Johnson suggested going back and amending the application and starting over rather than going to the RTM.

Mr. Johnson reported the Environmental Task Force conducted a presentation at the Board of Selectmen Meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup>. At that meeting the Selectmen directed the committee to meet with the Board of Parks and Recreation to draft a mutual resolution. A meeting was held, comments were compiled. Mr. Johnson stated he generated a revised resolution following that meeting that incorporated the comments made at the meeting. The revised resolution was distributed to all with a few minor adjustments from the group. The Environmental Task Force did not comment on Mr. Johnson's draft, but submitted their version to Mr. Tesei. Mr. Johnson added the topic is not on the agenda for the Board of Selectmen Meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Johnson expressed his desire to work with all involved to formulate a mutual resolution.

### **Community Garden, Bruce Spaman**

Mr. Spaman reported on the proposal for a community garden at Pemberwick Park that was submitted by Nancy Caplan.

Mr. Siciliano stated the proposal is a good idea but needs to be evaluated. The issues of concern are:

- Liability and insurance
- Enforcement of no pesticide use
- Access
- Staffing; gardeners and Administration

Mr. Dunster introduced Linnea Sternberg and Susan Richardson from the Friends of Greenwich Point. They reviewed their proposal to standardize signage at Greenwich point as to not detract from the natural beauty of the Point. The group has created an inventory of signage for signs as they pertain to Parks and Recreation. Upon discussion, the following resolution was adopted:

**Motion by Mr. Wellington seconded by Mr. Craine:**

**RESOLVED, that the Board of Parks and Recreation supports the efforts of the Friends of Greenwich Point in standardizing the signage at Greenwich Point. 6-0-0**

Ms. Richardson asked for a liaison from the Board, Mr. Siciliano offered support of Craig Whitcomb from the Department. Mr. Dunster offered to be the Board liaison.

Mr. Siciliano introduced Eric Rains from Greenwich Green and Clean. Mr. Rains discussed the organization's proposal to provide the Parks Department with a long term vision for Roger Sherman Baldwin Park, with the plan implemented through volunteer efforts from Green and Clean as well as other organizations. Upon discussion, the following resolution was adopted.

**Motion by Mr. Oca seconded by Mr. Craine:**

**RESOLVED, that the Board of Parks and Recreation encourages the initiative of Greenwich Green and Clean to set a vision for the long term planning of Roger Sherman Baldwin Park. 6-0-0**

#### **VI. Unfinished Business**

Mr. Siciliano announced there have been discussions about closing the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center June 30, 2010. He suggested the Town have a plan in place before considering closing the building. Mr. Siciliano recommended the building be evaluated in the 2009-10 season before that decision is made. Upon extensive discussion on the topic, the meeting was adjourned.

#### **VII. New Business**

None

#### **VIII. Public Comment**

None

**IX. Motion to adjourn unanimously approved at 8:28 pm.**