



## Board of Parks & Recreation

Meeting Minutes

April 29, 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 May 27, 2009.***

**Board Attendees:** Nancy Caplan, Rick Capozza, Scott Johnson, and William Dunster

**Not Attending:** Richard Wellington, John Craine, Winston Robinson, Robert Oca

**Ex-Officio Attendees:** Peter Tesei, First Selectman

**Staff Attendees:** Joseph Siciliano, Peter Mandras, Henry Goyette, Craig Whitcomb and Bruce Spaman

**Guest Attendees:** Sue Baker, Toni Wyman, Nancy Chapin, Michael Mason, Karen Fassuliotis, Robert Sterling, Mary Hull and Lucia Jansen

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:13 P.M.
- II. Quorum was not met, therefore no votes taken.

### **III. Monthly Topic**

#### **Marine Facilities, Craig Whitcomb**

Mr. Whitcomb reported the following concerning Marine Facilities:

- Byram pool is scheduled to open Memorial Day
- Beaches are being cleaned
- Island beach caretaker has moved back
- Great Captain Island caretaker will be moving in the lighthouse next week

Mr. Whitcomb reviewed the attendance of Greenwich Point for the previous weekend. Mr. Siciliano added there is a procedure for maxed out capacity. The caretaker in conjunction with the Police Department will make a determination that capacity is maxed out. The policy has not been used in a number of years.

Mr. Siciliano reported the Beach Card Office is fully staffed. There was a delay due to a pending approval to hire such staff. Currently 10,000 -11,000 beach passes have been issued of the usual 40,000 for the season. Being that beach cards are required for access as of May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 stickers and passes will be accepted through May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Those who do not have either a 2008 or 2009 pass will need to purchase a day pass at the appropriate fees.

Ms. Caplan acknowledged two Boy Scouts from Troop 9; Robert Graham and Sivon Sud fulfilling a requirement of citizenship in the community by attending and working towards their merit badge.

### **Boating, Henry Goyette**

Mr. Goyette reported the Grass Island dockage rebuilds (floats and fingers) are a little behind schedule due to the permit not being approved on time; permit is expected from the state in the next week.

The sewage pump is waiting to be installed; the application is in with the DEP.

Mr. Goyette stated he has experience with the Auto CAD drawing program which allowed him to complete drawings in-house.

Addition of Rec Trac to the Boating Division-enables to better track receivables

Mr. Goyette reported the procedure for pressure washing boats has changed. The residue needs to be contained and environmentally hauled away. Mr. Goyette indicated he is researching possible options.

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

Mr. Siciliano suggested an upcoming Board Meeting take place at Grass Island (Greenwich Boat and Yacht Club) to include a tour of the marina.

Mr. Siciliano the RTM Parks and Recreation Committee will meet Tuesday, 8:00 pm in the Parks and Recreation Conference Room to review the budget submittal.

The full RTM Meeting will take place on Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm at Central Middle School.

Mr. Tesei added there are conversations taking place within the RTM to make further reductions to the Town budget. The collective bargaining units are considering a wage freeze for the year, should this not take place, the departments will need to find the savings in a reduction of service.

### **V. Chairman's Report, William Dunster**

Mr. Dunster announced Cathy Weisenburger has been selected to sit on the Board of Parks and Recreation; she is currently going through the approval process.

### **Greenwich Parks Alliance**

Ms. Lucia Jansen reviewed the proposal for the Greenwich Park Alliance which included the following:

- The need
- Benefits from parks
- Mission
- Vision
- Suggested responsibilities
- Participants
- Organizational chart
- Next steps

Mr. Tesei reported the Byram pocket park project is a result of a 10+ year planning process. As a result, the Byram Neighborhood Advancement plan was formed the plans for the park are being revised, once complete; the project will go out for bid. The park will become part of the Parks and Recreation inventory.

Mr. Tesei stated there have been some concerns about the \$1.5M for the remediation of the Cos Cob Power Plant. Mr. Tesei stated he is in favor of remediating the Power Plant. The development plan is still working through the Land Use Agencies. The \$1.5M is to complete the remediation only; the development is targeted for next year.

Mr. Tesei reported there are a few issues with the conditions of the Cos Cob Power Plant property;

1. Concern about the remains around the perimeter of the property in terms of contaminates, the Town is not in the position to remediate that at this time.
2. There has been talk about an agreement that states the Town must provide 24 units of housing; Mr. Tesei reported he has not seen the agreement. The Town will work with the Connecticut Department of Economic Development and reconcile.
3. Concerns regarding the proximity to the transmission lines; electric magnetic fields (EMF) need to be researched.
4. Consideration for synthetic turf. Committee working on recommendations

Upon extensive discussion, Mr. Siciliano added he is keeping an open mind, but there needs to be collaboration with the group and the department, as to avoid fragmentation of the group. Mr. Siciliano stated that while he doesn't believe the current participants will become a special interest group pushing their own personal agendas; his concern is for the future members of the Alliance for years to come.

Mr. Dunster added the absent Board Members need to review the proposal before the Board can take a position on the Greenwich Parks Alliance.

Mr. Johnson thanked Mr. Tesei for the turf resolution.

## **VI. Committee Reports**

### **CCORFANS, Scott Johnson**

Mr. Johnson reported he is participating on this committee formed to study Town fields and related facilities to research potential recommendations on shortages, realignments, priorities, funding, need for maintenance, Etc.

### **Community Garden, Nancy Caplan**

Ms. Caplan reported there were a couple of locations being researched in Byram, but due to the deed restrictions (conservation land); an alternate site must be researched.

Ms. Caplan reported she is working with Mr. Robinson at Armstrong court to renovate the existing garden. In addition, the Junior League is implementing a children's garden. Mr.

Siciliano added the department has provided an estimate for the fencing repair at Armstrong Court.

**Rink Committee, Nancy Caplan**

Ms. Caplan reported the committee has met and reviewed the process. A new process has been established and is working ahead of schedule. Short term need for more ice, the committee is researching alternatives including a temporary rink for practices.

**VII. Unfinished Business**

**VIII. New Business**

Ms. Baker introduced Nancy Chapin as the new Conservation Commission liaison replacing Alexander Brash.

Mr. Spaman reported there will be a presentation on Historic Landscape reports by Martha Lyon on Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

**IX. Public Comment**

**X. Meeting adjourned 9:02 pm.**