



Board of Parks & Recreation

Meeting Minutes

May 27, 2009

Board Attendees: Nancy Caplan, Rick Capozza, Winston Robinson Scott Johnson, John Craine, and Ric Wellington

Not Attending: Will Dunster and Robert Oca

Ex-Officio Attendees: None

Staff Attendees: Joseph Siciliano, Fred Walters, Tom Greco and Bruce Spaman

Guest Attendees: Toni Wyman, Nancy Chapin, Robert Sterling, and Cathy Weisenburger

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:11 P.M.
- II. **Motion made, seconded, and approved to accept the Minutes of the March 25, 2009 and April 29, 2009 Meetings, 6-0-0.**
- III. **Monthly Topic**

Recreation, Joseph Siciliano

Mr. Siciliano distributed and reviewed the upcoming special events schedule as well as summer camp programs.

Mr. Siciliano reported the Memorial Day weekend was very successful.

The beaches and the Byram Pool opened Memorial Day weekend.

Program enrollment is average. There has been an increase in scholarship applications, Social Services screens the applicants. The department accepts contributions to the scholarship fund, The Second Congregational Church as been a long-time contributor with an annual contribution of \$2,500, the film shoot fees go to the Scholarship Fund. Mr. Siciliano added he has the authority to waive a fee for a child in need should scholarship funds be depleted; that has not been an issue thus far.

Mr. Siciliano stated park passes are issued to families who qualify through Social Services.

Mr. Greco added the department has sent out 40,000 park pass renewal applications. More than 28,000 cards have been issued.

Mr. Siciliano reported the fireworks display will take place on Friday, July 3rd with a raindate of Sunday, July 5th at Greenwich Point and Binney Park. RBS, Greenwich Capital has been a longtime sponsor of the fireworks with an annual donation of \$25,000. The department will reach out to them again this year. Should they not sponsor, there is money in the budget for the fireworks. Salute to the Vets will be held on June 27th and will not be in conjunction with the fireworks this year due to the scheduling of the military groups.

Mr. Siciliano commended Jim Carrier on his efforts in putting Salute to the Vets together year after year.

IV. Director's Report, Joseph Siciliano

Mr. Siciliano reported the department has been working with the Parking Services Director to manage the logistics of the Island Beach and Horseneck Lots for ferry service.

Mr. Siciliano stated there has been some discussion of moving the Farmer's Market out of the Horseneck Lot due to the new fee for parking in the Horseneck Lot for the ferry. In an effort to resolve some issues and to avoid confusion with people parking for the ferry and parking for the Farmer's Market, it was suggested to move the Market to the Town Hall Parking Lot. The Farmers were very cooperative in agreeing to move, however residents had concerns about access, etc. The decision has been made for the Farmer's Market to remain in the Horseneck Lot, however if it becomes a problem with confusion due to the parking fee, the move will be reconsidered.

Mr. Siciliano pointed out an article in the Greenwich Time on the completed lighthouse. There will not be private tours; it is not a full public access building.

The use of 2008 beach pass and parking stickers has been extended until June 5, 2009.

Mr. Greco responded to the question regarding multipurpose cards, due to seasonal operations, it would make be difficult to have multipurpose cards. Mr. Greco explained that there are cost savings with the new beach cards because they are not being printed annually.

Mr. Siciliano suggested Mr. Greco report on the new beach cards as a monthly topic at a future meeting.

IV. Committee Reports

Golf Course, Joseph Siciliano

Mr. Siciliano reported the User Group met; the following topics were discussed:

- Building construction - suggestions about operations of the building during construction
- Revenue stream
- Canceled tournaments - not enough participants-currently negotiating the 100 player minimum
- December 1, 2009 completion of the building

- Reservation Policy-based on the golfer survey, majority wanted the tee sheet to go up at 12:00 midnight

Mr. Siciliano added there have been some new memberships from patrons of private clubs.

Artificial Turf, Joseph Siciliano

Mr. Siciliano reported the committee met. A monthly schedule has been set as the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 9:30 am.

Mr. Siciliano reported the Cos Cob Power Plant is being reconsidered by Planning and Zoning and is in the reworking phase. The field size was reduced from 360ft to 330ft and is regulation size for every sport except football. Walkway lights are being debated.

CCORFANS, Scott Johnson

Mr. Johnson reported the first meeting has not occurred, but will take place in the next couple of weeks.

Rink Committee, Nancy Caplan

Ms. Caplan reported the committee met to discuss a temporary ice disaster recovery plan and the need for an additional rink on a temporary basis.

Ms. Caplan commended Mr. Siciliano and the department on addressing the issues of the various users.

Historic Landscape Reports, Bruce Spaman

Mr. Spaman reported the Historic Landscape Reports are a solid foundation for a master plan. The reports cover the initial intent of the parks. There was a public presentation held on the Historic Landscape Report, covered by Channel 79 and will air several times.

Mr. Siciliano suggested the Historic Landscape Reports be the topic for a future Board Meeting.

Mr. Siciliano complimented the Marine and Facility Division on the Grass Island docks. There has been positive feedback from the community. Mr. Siciliano suggested the next Board Meeting take place at the Greenwich Boat and Yacht club to accommodate a Grass Island tour.

Mr. Walters credited his team who worked very hard on the Grass Island project.

Mr. Walters reported the power washing ban has been pushed out to 2010. The new policy will require boaters to collect the water and mist from power washing and bring to almost drinkable water or collect the water and have an environmental company to cart it out.

Coastal Resources, John Craine

Mr. Craine thanked Mr. Siciliano and Mr. Walters for their cooperation in the transitioning of the Board of Parks and Recreation Coastal Resources Committee to the First Selectman's Coastal Resources Advisory Committee.

Mr. Craine stated there are currently 700 moorings on record and they are in the process of developing a database.

RTM, Ric Wellington

Mr. Wellington reported he attended the RTM Budget Meeting on May 5th, there was a discussion of the Town matching funds for the solar trash compactors at Greenwich Point. After some debate, it remained in the budget.

There will be a P&R Committee meeting on Tuesday, June 2nd. There are 4 items for review by the committee:

- The appointment of Cathy Weisenburger to the Board of P&R
- Tree Ordinance
- Acceptance of the solar trash compactor gift
- Approval of the POCD

Civic Center Committee, Ric Wellington

Mr. Wellington reported he attended the Greenwich Civic Center Committee meeting; the discussion was primarily on options for fundraising in tough times.

There is a meeting tentatively scheduled by the First Selectman on June 4th which will include members of the Civic Center Committee and the Department of Parks and Recreation.

VI. Unfinished Business

Mr. Spaman announced the Bruce Park playground is scheduled to be completed June 13th with the dedication ceremony taking place on June 20th.

Mr. Siciliano reported the "Brian's Path" dedication ceremony at Roger Sherman Baldwin Park was well attended and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Ms. Caplan reported there will be a dedication for the community garden at Armstrong Court.

VII. New Business

Mr. Spaman reported there is an Eagle Scout project that will reopen the trail from the Bible Street Community Center into the Pinetum.

VIII. Public Comment

IX. Meeting adjourned 8:15 pm.