



## Board of Parks & Recreation

Meeting Minutes

June 24, 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 July 29, 2009.***

**Board Attendees:** Nancy Caplan, Winston Robinson, John Craine, Will Dunster, Catherine Weisenburger and Ric Wellington

**Not Attending:** Rick Capozza, Scott Johnson and Robert Oca

**Ex-Officio Attendees:** None

**Staff Attendees:** Joseph Siciliano, Fred Walters, Tom Greco and Peter Mandras

**Guest Attendees:** Sue Baker and Robert Sterling

- I. Meeting began with a tour of Grass Island Marina led by Fred Walters
- II. Meeting called to order at 7:30 P.M.
- III. **Motion made, seconded, and approved to accept the Minutes of the May 27, 2009, 6-0-0.**
- IV. **Monthly Topic**

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

Mr. Siciliano announced the Bruce Playground is 90% complete. The playground opened Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Siciliano added the park has been monitored for usage statistics, on average there have been 150 children an hour.

Mr. Siciliano announced the Indian Harbor Yacht Club will be hosting a sailing regatta this upcoming weekend.

Mr. Siciliano reported Island Beach opened June 13<sup>th</sup>. The ferry parking lot has been staffed to educate the public on the new ticket/parking policy. This will continue, due to the slow weekends. An ad has been posted in the Greenwich Time and Greenwich Post to educate the public on the new policy. The information is also posted on the Town website.

Mr. Siciliano stated there are Public Coastal Resource Meetings scheduled weekly for the month of July, the department has sent out memos to registered community associations, boat clubs and private marinas.

Mr. Siciliano acknowledged the department is well within budget with the commitment to return 10% of the current operating budget back to the General Fund.

Mr. Greco added it appears several people may be taking early retirement, it is unknown how many of those positions will be filled; there is some uncertainty with respect to pension plans.

Mr. Siciliano reported employees have until June 30<sup>th</sup> to register their early retirement. The department will meet in July to discuss a decrease in service due to the manpower reduction and possible further reductions in service based on the number of retirements.

Mr. Siciliano announced the department went to the Budget Committee in February and stated that due to the reduction in force, the department will no longer cut traffic islands, pruning, etc. The department has received several requests for maintenance of traffic islands. Residents get frustrated and contact the First Selectman. In an effort to lower the frustration level, the public needs to be informed of the services that will no longer be provided.

Mr. Siciliano stated the department has lost 17 full time positions since 2005.

Mr. Siciliano reported the outsourcing plan is in binding arbitration with the state arbitrator. Mr. Siciliano is hopeful that there will be an answer by budget preparation in September.

### **Chairman's Report, Will Dunster**

Mr. Dunster welcomed Cathy Weisenburger to her first meeting as a member of the Board.

Mr. Dunster reported he was confronted about some lacrosse nets that were put away on the G.H.S. field. G.H.S. thought they owned the nets so they locked them up. Mr. Mandras added he does not have a problem with the nets on the field.

Mr. Dunster also added he was contacted by a resident who was on the wait list for a boat slip and was concerned about his position on the list.

Mr. Walters responded the Boating Division periodically contacts those on the wait list to confirm they would like to remain on the list, if they do not reply they are removed from the list.

Mr. Walters added Henry Goyette is currently managing the list. When a slip opens up, the next resident on the list is contacted and given 48 hours to respond. Current slip holders are "preferred customers" if they want to move to another marina, they have preference over those on the wait list.

Mr. Dunster reported he is concerned that users of the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center are starting to find alternate sites for their events due to the uncertainty of the building's future.

Mr. Siciliano reported the roof repairs for Eastern Greenwich Civic Center have been taken out of the budget. There has been some discussion about closing the building on June 30,

2010. Mr. Siciliano reported he met with the First Selectman and the Civic Center Committee; there currently is no plan on the table. Users of the Civic Center are inquiring about their needs beyond June 30, 2010.

Mr. Siciliano expressed his concerns if the building closes before there is a plan of execution of construction.

## **V. Committee Reports**

### **First Selectman's Coastal Resources Advisory Committee, John Craine**

Mr. Craine distributed the announcement on the public meetings concerning Waterways Management Study taking place in July.

Mr. Craine announced Craig Whitcomb will take him and Geoff Steadman out to get a summer view of each harbor.

Mr. Craine reported there will be a meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers next week, with the intent to develop a better working relationship with the Corps.

### **Rink Committee, Nancy Caplan**

Ms. Caplan thanked members of the department for their work with the Rink Committee. Changes were made to the ice allocation process. The process is approximately 2 months ahead of schedule.

Mr. Mandras reviewed the policy changes. Mr. Mandras added the Greenwich High School schedule is almost complete.

Ms. Caplan reported the committee has looked at the following options:

- Repairs at Dorothy Hamill Rink
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Rink
- Short term solutions-temporary rink

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

Ms. Caplan thanked all who assisted with the community garden at Armstrong Court.

### **RTM, Ric Wellington**

Mr. Wellington reported the next RTM Meeting will be held on September 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **Civic Center Committee, Ric Wellington**

Mr. Wellington reported the Committee met; the meeting was very well attended. The discussion revolved around the following topics:

- 2008 Community Needs Analysis
- Business Plan

- Fundraising

There are no meetings scheduled at this time.

### **Byram Pool Committee**

Mr. Wellington reported the committee has not met.

### **CCORFANS, Scott Johnson**

Mr. Wellington reported the committee has not met.

### **Golf Course, Winston Robinson**

Mr. Robinson reported the golf course had 10-11” of rain for the month of June. The course is in good condition. Due to the bad weather attendance has been low.

Mr. Siciliano added there have been some new tournaments added; trying to adjust number of required attendees for outings.

## **VI. Unfinished Business**

### **VII. New Business**

Mr. Wellington announced Joe Felder has been named President Elect of the Metropolitan Chapter of the Professional Golf Association. This is the first time in history that a public course professional has been named President Elect. Mr. Siciliano added it is a real prestigious honor.

Mr. Siciliano asked Board Members to see Tom Greco for a copy of the Historical Landscape Report.

### **VIII. Public Comment**

Sue Baker made comment concerning the traffic at Greenwich Point due to the scanning of park passes.

Rob Sterling asked why passes are purchased off site. Mr. Siciliano responded it lessened the traffic congestion.

Rob Sterling also asked what happens with the data collected from scanning park passes. Mr. Siciliano replied that the information is managed by the FOI regulations.

## **IX. Meeting adjourned 8:50 pm.**