TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes of May 16, 2018

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Fairfield was held on Wednesday, May 16, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Eunice Postol Parks & Recreation Center, Fairfield, Connecticut.

PRESENT: Scott Walker, Chairman, Jessica Gerber, Alexa Mullady, Chris McCoy, Mary Von Conta, Bridget McBride, David Weber and Brian Nerreau
VACANCY: Bryan Thompson
ALSO: Anthony Calabrese, Director; Parks & Recreation Department

Chairman Scott Walker called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Introduction of new Recreation Coordinator, Chris Sacco – Mr. Calabrese introduced Mr. Sacco who then spoke to the members about his background as a Recreation Coordinator in Canton and other positions that made his transition to Fairfield quite seamless. He is very happy to have this opportunity.

I. ACT ON MINUTES OF:
April 18, 2018 – Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved as presented.

II. COMMUNICATIONS:
1. Resignation of Bryan Thompson – Mr. Walker shared a resignation letter from Mr. Thompson that had been received by the Town Clerk and the First Selectman. Mr. Walker noted that there are many Commission vacancies throughout Town that need to be filled.
2. Cheri Evans – First Church Congregational – Summer Services at Sasco Beach – Ms. Evans, 60 Bunnell Ave., Stratford, was present to request permission for their congregants to access and use Sasco beach on Sunday mornings form June 10 to September 2 from 8 am to 9 am. While this gathering has taken place for years, this is only the second time that the church has formally made the request.
   Motion: A. Mullady moved, and B. Nerreau seconded to approve the request.
   Vote: Unanimous
3. Steven Levine Request naming Owen Fish - Mr. Calabrese spoke in Mr. Levine’s absence regarding a request to name the walking path at Owen Fish Park after Mr. Levine’s mother who was instrumental in having that path paved and upgraded and who passed away in 2014. Mr. Levine had sent a letter (see attached) to Mr. Tetreau and his request was forwarded to this Commission. Mr. Calabrese suggested that if this request is approved, a plaque be placed on a large rock at the start of the path. He added that this is a separate path to the trails named for Ed Crowley, Sr. Mr. McCoy spoke in favor of the request while Mr. Nerreau was not convinced that living in the area was enough of a reason for the naming. Mr. Calabrese stated that DPW did pave the path for Mrs. Levine who was handicapped.
   Motion: D. Weber moved, and A. Mullady seconded to approve the request.
   Vote: 6-0-1 (B. Nerreau abstained)
4. Fairfield Amateur Radio Assn. – Field Day Event – June 23-24, 2018 – Jeffrey Cronin, 750 Knapps Hwy. was present to ask for permission to hold a Field Day radio event at the US Coast Guard Building at So. Benson Marina. This will be a 24-hour event and parking has been arranged with the Police Department. Mr. Kenny is also aware.
   Motion: B. McBride moved, and C. McCoy seconded to approve the request.
   Vote: Unanimous
5. Tara Donnelly - Fairfield Wear Orange Event – Ms. Donnelly, a member of the Fairfield Chapter of Moms Demand Action For Gun Sense requested permission to hold a ceremony at the Town Hall Green. The event would include the hanging of 96 shirts across the Town Green to signify lives lost daily to gun violence. Merchants will be hanging Orange in their windows. Mr. Tetreau has agreed to make a proclamation. There would also be other speakers.
   Motion: B. Nerreau moved, and J. Gerber seconded to approve the request.
   Vote: Unanimous
Following this vote, Ms. Donnelly asked to have the Special Event fee of $400 waived.

Mr. Walker explained that a vote would be required to reconsider the previously adopted motion regarding the Wear Orange Event.

**Motion:** D. Weber *moved*, and M. Von Conta *seconded* to reconsider the previously adopted motion regarding the Wear Orange Event.

**Vote:** *Unanimous*

**Motion:** D. Weber *moved*, and M. Von Conta *seconded* to approve the Wear Orange Event with the $400 Event fee waived.

**Vote:** 4-3 (Mullady, McBride, McCoy opposed). Motion is approved.

6. CT Brain Tumor Alliance 5K walk- September 29, 2018, Jennings Beach Lot – Scott Hinkley, 3069 34th St. Astoria, NY was present to request permission to use Jennings Beach Lot for a 5K event on September 29 (see request). All proceeds will go to the CT Brain Tumor Alliance. Mr. Walker reminded the members that the First Selectman had asked that no more events be approved on the beach-side of Town.

**Motion:** A. Mullady *moved*, and D. Weber *seconded* to approve the request.

**Vote:** 6-0-1 J. Gerber abstained.

7. Corey Scinto – Memorial Butterfly Garden- Sandcastle Playground – Ms. Scinto, 81 Henderson Rd. was present to request permission to plant a Butterfly Bush at the Sandcastle Playground in memory of Ava June Howerton who passed away suddenly last year. This was her favorite place to play. Ms. Scinto, in cooperation with Ms. Mullady has spoken to the Tree Warden and the Conservation Department who will donate the mulch and planting. Ms. Scinto will provide the bush. Department of Public Works will put this on their watering schedule. This will be planted to the right of the play area.

**Motion:** J. Gerber *moved*, and B. Nerreau *seconded* to approve the request.

**Vote:** *Unanimous*

IV. PUBLIC INPUT: None

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: To hear and act upon:

B. Kerry McCullough - Day One Skate Shop – Approval of structure at Jennings Beach Skate Park

Following last month’s meeting, Mr. McCullough returned to the Commission to specify the design of the retail kiosk or trailer he would like to place on the premises. Mr. McCullough made a visual presentation and presented handouts as well (see attached). There was lengthy discussion about the best options and locations. Mr. McCullough had already spoken to the Building and Zoning departments. Mr. Calabrese was not sure if approvals needed to come from the Planning and Zoning Commission or if the approval can be at the department level. Mr. McCullough hoped to get this completed as soon as possible. Ms. McBride suggested signage and location. Mr. Nerreau was concerned about footings that might be left if the structure is not permanent. Ms. Mullady felt that she might rather see a trailer than a shipping container. Ms. Von Conta suggested starting on wheels and if the contract becomes more permanent a more permanent structure could be considered.

**Motion:** C. McCoy *moved*, and B. McBride *seconded* to approve the request by Day One Skate for a temporary structure as presented.

**Motion:** B. Nerreau *moved* and J. Gerber *seconded* to amend the previous motion, to state approval for a temporary structure at the Skate Park at So. Benson Marina as presented, to include a 20X8 container, a 20x8 deck and a 20x 12 ramp, to exceed none of these.

**Vote:** *Unanimous*

VI. NEW BUSINESS: To hear and act upon:

A. Extend handicap ramps at Jennings and Penfield Beaches -

Mr. Calabrese asked the Commission to give a conceptual approval of a permanent and extended handicap walkway at both beaches similar to the one at Sasco Beach. The members stated that they like the idea and will not ask Mr. Michelangelo to come to the Commission to show the specific design.

**Motion:** A. Mullady *moved*, and B. Nerreau *seconded* to approve the extension of the handicap walkway at both Jennings and Penfield Beaches in the same location just as Mr. Michelangelo designs.

**Vote:** *Unanimous*
VII. To hear and act upon information in Committee Reports:

A. HSR Building Committee – Ms. Mullady, liaison to the sub-committee reported that the committee is making a great deal of progress. They received eight submissions to the RFP and have narrowed it down to four. They will hear from all the architects on May 22 and 23 and will choose a final candidate shortly. Choices remain:

1. To renovate the existing clubhouse and cart barn as they stand.
2. To tear down and rebuild a new clubhouse and cart barn where they stand.
3. To build a new Clubhouse and Cart barn where the existing Maintenance Building on Hoydens Lane near the driving range.

Mr. Calabrese mentioned that the third option seems, before any other studies or budgets are examined, to be the most popular and many feel it will increase the driving range revenue as well. He added that it will come down to cost. Ms. Mullady mentioned that this option could open up the present clubhouse space for more recreation-centered opportunities. When asked by Ms. Gerber, Mr. Calabrese stated that the RTM and Board of Selectmen receive quarterly updates so they are aware of what is being proposed.

B. Marina Sub-Committee – Mr. Walker reported that the sub-committee met on May 8.

Mr. Kenny reported that he has the following open slips:
Small – 9 with 6 spoken for. Currently 3.5 years left on waitlist
Medium – 4 open with invitations out and he is waiting responses. 1 year and 9 months on that waitlist
Large – 7 open with 6 tentative yeses. Approx. 11 years on that waitlist

The Fuel Dock is still in the works and they are waiting on drawings from the Engineering Department.

RACE came to give a report on the condition of the marina and options going forward. They noted that the issues with the marina are more operational than structural, with an aging infrastructure. Boats are stacked closely, utility placement is somewhat risky, and the lack of finger docks is an issue. They added that the trend toward longer, wider and heavier boats is stressing the limitations of the marina.

A copy of the PowerPoint presentation was shown to the members.

Mr. Santa from RACE reviewed seven options that they feel will create a safer and more appealing marina. They went over the pros and cons of each.

**Option 1:** Reconstruct the current marina as is at a loss of no boat slips and a cost of approximately $2.5 million.

**Option 2:** Reconfigure adding finger docks to A-F docks for a loss of 73 boat slips and a cost of approximately $1.1 million.

**Option 3:** Add finger docks with much larger fairways for a loss of 125 boat slips and a cost of approximately $1.6 million.

**Option 4:** Add finger docks throughout the whole marina for a loss of 142 boat slips and a cost of approximately $1.3 million.

**Option 5:** Add finger docks throughout and create the marina for more mid-sized boat slips for a loss of 307 boats and a cost of approximately $4.7 million.

**Option 6:** Add finger docks throughout for larger boats and much larger fairways for a loss of 374 boat slips and a cost of approximately $4.3 million.

**Option 7:** Add finger docks to A-F docks for a loss of 298 boat slips and a cost of approximately $5.2 million.

In general, the members agreed that options 3 and 4 were the most reasonable options and that whichever they chose would need to be tweaked. Mr. Nerreau was not ready to abandon Option #1. There was discussion of losing boats through attrition and how many years it might take to reach a loss of 125 boats. Mr. Kenny estimated it would take approximately two seasons to open up that many slips. All agreed that the marina is reaching its life expectancy and that something needs to be done. The Board of Finance has asked for a 10-year plan and all agreed that this RACE study and the financial report are steps to that end.
VII. BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT: Ms. Gerber reported:
- The next meeting will include both the CABE Awards and the Superintendent’s Awards.
- The RTM approved the budget with no reductions.
- The Board of Selectmen approved the Mill Hill expansion bonding and now it goes to the Board of Finance and the RTM. They are looking for members for that Building Committee.
- The Sherman expansion plan will be on the Board of Selectman’s agenda next week.
- High School graduations have been set for June 20.
- The new K-12 science curriculum was approved.
- The K-5 Music Program presentation will be seen at the next meeting.

VIII. DIRECTOR & PROGRAM REPORTS: Mr. Calabrese presented a written (see attached). Topics included:
- The new Recreation Coordinator has started and “hit the ground running” he is very pleased so far with how well he has tackled his new position at such a busy time of year.
- Beach Stickers are on track to meet projections. He is planning not to “guard” the South Pine Creek Beach this year. He will see how things go and if there are numerous complaints, he can revisit the plan.
- Penfield Lockers are not selling well this year and there are still 60 available. It concerns him.
- The Holy Family Carnival is this coming weekend and there have been some complaints regarding the setup taking place late at night. This and the breakdown are being addressed. He wanted the members aware in light of any future approvals.
- The Tree Warden is planning to do some planting down at Penfield; replacing some older plants with younger ones in the overflow lots. Ms. Dru Georgiadis has raised the money for this project.
- An exciting Warde-Ludlow HS softball game took place last week and the first Walker Softball Champions Cup was presented to the winner in honor of Mr. Walker’s family and all the work done to make that field a reality.

IX. GOOD OF THE ORDER – Mr. Walker asked for clarification regarding the Commission’s position concerning future beach area event requests given the previously discussed objections by the First Selectman to such approvals. He noted that the request approved this evening was properly noticed and that no one was present to oppose the event, but he wanted to remind the members of the Selectman’s concerns. Ms. Mullady stated that at any time the First Selectman or neighbors are opposed to any requested event they are welcome to address the Commission. Ms. Gerber stated that she felt comfortable approving it because it was outside the beach season.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Ryan, Recording Secretary