A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Fairfield was held on Wednesday, June 20, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Eunice Postol Parks & Recreation Center, Fairfield, Connecticut.

**PRESENT:** Scott Walker, Chairman, Chris McCoy, Mary Von Conta, Bridget McBride, David Weber and Brian Nerreau

**ABSENT:** Jessica Gerber and Alexa Mullady

**ALSO:** Jamie Benton (Non-voting member until swearing-in, is replacing Bryan Thompson), Anthony Calabrese, Director; Parks & Recreation Department; Gaylen Brown, Asst. Director; Parks & Recreation Department; Dan Zeman, Asst. Waterfront Dir.

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

Chairman Walker welcomed new member Jamie Benton who was confirmed by the Board of Selectman earlier in the evening. Mr. Benton will sit as a non-voting member until his swearing in.

I. ACT ON MINUTES OF:
May 16, 2018 – Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved as presented.

II. COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Anna Wood – McKinley School Carnival – April 21-28, 2019
   Two representatives from McKinley School were present (Ms. Fuedo and Ms. Morgan) to request permission to hold the carnival as in the past years. Mr. Calabrese stated that they had no issues.
   **Motion:** B. Nerreau moved, and C. McCoy seconded to approve the request.
   **Vote:** Unanimously approved

2. Trinity Episcopal Church - Sunday Services, July 19 & Aug. 26 - Mr. Michael Banton, 44 Penny Lane was present to represent the church. Mr. Banton estimated the service would take place from 9-9:30am, for approximately 30 parishioners.
   **Motion:** B. McBride moved, and M. Von Conta seconded to approve the request.
   **Vote:** Unanimously approved

3. Kiwanis Club- Flags of Valor - Jennings Park – November 1-18, 2018 – Paul Giacalone, President of the Kiwanis Club was present to ask for permission to repeat last year’s event. They will stage flags along the park for two weeks in honor of veterans. The Police will assist with crossing from the large retail parking lot across the street to the park. The proceeds go to the Homes for the Brave in Bridgeport.
   **Motion:** B. Nerreau moved, and M. Von Conta seconded to approve the request.
   **Vote:** Unanimous

4. Kris Burbank, Woofgang and Co. - Sales on the Green- Sherman Green - June 30, 2018 – Kelly Maffei, 245 Mayfair Rd. was present to make the request for a gathering at the Green to sell dog treats, gifts, etc. to bring awareness to young adults with disabilities and their retail store on the Post Road.
   **Motion:** C. McCoy moved, and M. Von Conta seconded to approve the request.
   **Vote:** Unanimous

5. Amy Stern, Woofgang and Co. – September 13, 2018, Penfield Event Rental Waiver - Kelly Maffei, 245 Mayfair Rd. spoke for Ms. Stern to ask for a fee waiver. Mr. McCoy spoke in favor of this to give them a first time only waiver to help them get started in their endeavor. Mr. Nerreau felt that once this door was opened to non-profits, it would be a difficult one to close. Many were concerned that it was a Thursday night, rather popular, and asked if the date could be changed. Ms. Maffei stated that all had been set in motion for this particular date. Ms. Ryan stated that 40% of rentals are to non-profits and none have been given a waiver. Ms. McBride felt it should be tabled for more thought and Mr. Nerreau supported tabling although some felt tabling this item would put them behind in their scheduling. No motion to table was considered.
   **Motion:** M. Von Conta moved, and D. Weber seconded to waive half the rental fee for the Woofgang September 13 event.
   **Vote:** 3-2 Ms. McBride and Mr. Nerreau against. Mr. Walker abstained. Motion Passed
6. Pastor John Lafreniere, Fairfield Baptist Church – Gospel Concert – Pastor Lafreniere was present to request permission for his church’s gospel choir to perform at the Sherman Green on Thursday, September 5 from 6:30-8. Mr. Calabrese stated that there was no conflict. **Motion:** B. McBride moved, and D. Weber seconded to approve the request. **Vote:** Unanimous.

IV. PUBLIC INPUT: Ian Bass, 495 Lalley Blvd. – Mr. Bass, a Penfield neighbor and President of the Fair Acres Assn. was present to make the Commission aware of the disturbances that the Pavilion rentals have been creating. He has placed four calls to the Police with issues such as cars still in the lot at 11:45pm and other cars doing donuts in the parking lot. He also noted that caterers are leaving after midnight and dragging carts along the lot. He had previously asked for the 11:00 pm time to be moved to 10:00 pm. He asked that the Police not leave until all vehicles are gone. Ms. Brown noted his complaints and will follow up with the staff and Police.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

VI. NEW BUSINESS: To hear and act upon:

1. Fairfield Rage Baseball Request for Blanket Permit Recognition – Steve Schwartz, 250 Winton Rd. was present to explain that the Rage organization, now called CT rage for legal purposes will be returning to the name Fairfield Rage and that they have always maintained 100% residency. He asked for the blanket permit to allow them to plan and schedule without having to call in every two weeks. Mr. Calabrese noted that baseball is not an issue and that the CT Wolfpack and Rage and Clubhouse have all co-existed well over the years. He supported this request. **Motion:** B. McBride moved, and B. Nerreau seconded to recognize the CT Rage as eligible for blanket permit status. **Vote:** Unanimous

2. Fairfield Rugby Request for Blanket Permit Recognition – Bob Ehlers, 441 Gilbert Hwy. was present to give a history of the Rugby Club and its transformation from a high school club over the last 18 years. Mr. McCoy asked about the CT Yankees organization, an adult league. Mr. Ehlers explained that any recognition would not include this adult league which cannot claim 100% residency. Mr. Ehlers also noted that the Rebels Rugby Club had been absorbed into Fairfield Rugby. **Motion:** C. McCoy moved, and B. McBride seconded to recognize Fairfield Rugby and Fairfield Rebels Rugby as eligible for blanket permit status for youth rugby through U-18. **Vote:** Unanimous


4. “Jaws” Event at Lake Mohegan – Parks & Recreation Department Alcohol waiver – Asst. Director Gaylen Brown let the Commission know that the department has been attempting to add adult events and those include two sold-out comedy nights at the Penfield Pavilion and have plans for several in the future (Football Party, Cinco De Mayo, etc.). Tonight Ms. Brown asked for an alcohol waiver for a “Jaws” movie showing at Lake Mohegan on August 3. They plan to sell $25 tickets and have a cash bar for 21 and older adults. She added that Police and Fire have given approval. While Ms. McBride felt that the department might look for more teen activities she understood that this was minimizing risk by allowing only adults. Mr. Nerreau applauded Ms. Brown’s efforts. **Motion:** B. Nerreau moved, and C. McCoy seconded to approve waiving the alcohol restriction for the Lake Mohegan “Jaws” event. **Vote:** 4-0-1 (Ms. Von Conta abstained)

5. Amendment to Section 5 of Parks & Recreation Rules & Regulations – Ms. McBride presented a recommendation to amend Section 5, paragraphs D and E of the Rules and regulations in the Beaches Section (see attached). Ms. McBride also distributed a Survey of neighboring Towns regarding Flotation devices and Swim Boards, etc. Waterfront Asst. Director, Dan Zeman asked that if they do approve this that they do not approve double-sided or slide-on devices. Ms. McBride stated that it would only be for U.S. Coast Guard approved devices, specifically stating the popularity of “Puddle Jumpers”. The membership approved by general consent to consider D and E Separately.
Motion: D. Weber moved, and B. Nerreau seconded to strike “paragraph D of section 5” in its entirety and replace with “The use of US Coast Guard Approved Personal Floatation Devices is permitted at all beaches.

The following devices are prohibited: rubber rafts, air mattresses, tire tubes, rubber balls, and the like. All approved devices will be at the discretion of lifeguards on duty.

Vote: Unanimous

Ms. McBride then discussed the use of Boogie Boards, stand up paddle boards, and the like. She felt that this would enhance the beachgoers experience and she has seen it work successfully in California at very large beaches on the ocean. Mr. Zeman spoke against this policy stating that children chase after boards, etc., and then are too deep in the water. Ms. Von Conta spoke against this idea as well concerned with the liability to the Town in a litigious society.

Ms. McBride’s suggestion was: The Usage of boogie boards, skim boards, kick boards, and stand-up paddle boards is permitted in designated areas of both Jennings and Penfield Beach. These areas are as follows and will be indicated via signage as a designated area for such activities:

- Jennings Beach between the J1 ramp and the buoy float line NE next to the kayaks.
- Penfield Beach between the southernmost lifeguard chair and the end of the public beach directly abutting the residential beach to the south.

There was lengthy discussion regarding skim boards in the swimming area as it is too crowded and the other boards in the boating area were too dangerous. All discussed the parents need to watch the children and it was clarified that Section 5 begins by stating that no child under the age of 12 may use the beach facilities unless under the supervision of someone 16 years or older.

Motion: C. McCoy moved, and C. McBride seconded to strike “paragraph E in Section 5” in its entirety and replace with “The use of boogie boards, kick boards and stand up paddle boards is permitted in areas of both Jennings and Penfield Beach designated by the Waterfront Director.”

Vote: 4-1 (Ms. Von Conta against).

Mr. McCoy and Mr. Weber had excused themselves from the meeting. There was no longer a voting quorum.

VII. To hear and act upon information in Committee Reports:
A. HSR Building Committee – Mr. Calabrese reported that an architect had been hired. The committee will work together on design.

B. Marina Sub-Committee – Mr. Walker reported that the sub-committee met on June 12 and Mr. Kenny reported that he has the following open slips:

- Small - 7 with offers out to all
- Medium – 3 vacant with invitations are out and expecting to fill shortly.
- Large – 4 open with invitations out to all.

The Fuel Dock is farther along in planning however the Committee prefers to wait and build it in place rather than rush the project in a perpendicular location. The Committee is still discussing the RACE options and ways to accomplish larger fairways between dock ends. They are waiting for an “inventory by length” from the Marina Manager and are considering modifying the fee structure to see how they can work with some of the options.

VIII. DIRECTOR & PROGRAM REPORTS: Mr. Calabrese presented a written (see attached). Topics included:

- The budget is closing on June 30. Most revenue projections will be attained or exceeded. Penfield Lockers are still under-performing. Bonfire sites and additional boat racks are a big success.
- Free Family Fun is getting started and Fireworks will be held on July 2.
- Comedy Shows are a big hit and more are scheduled.
- A new initiative to get people to visit Parks and Open Space will be kicked off in the Fall.
IX. GOOD OF THE ORDER – Due to the absence of Mr. Calabrese and other members in July, the Commission chose to cancel the July 18 meeting. The next meeting will be on August 15.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Ryan, Recording Secretary