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

PRESENT: Scott Walker, Chairman, Chris McCoy, David Weber and Jamie Benton, Alexa Mullady, Mary Von Conta, Bridget McBride, and Brian Nerreau

ABSENT: Jessica Gerber

ALSO: Anthony Calabrese, Director; Parks & Recreation Department;

Chairman Scott Walker called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

I. ACT ON MINUTES OF: August 15, 2018 – Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved as presented.

II. COMMUNICATIONS:
1. Tara Donnelly, Moms Demand Action – Wear Orange Event, June 2, 2019 – Sherman Green
   In Ms. Donnelly’s absence, Rachel Dreyfus, 448 Springer Rd. and Mary Diamond, Tara’s aunt, representing the Donnelly family, were present to request permission to hold a ceremony at the Sherman Green (see attached). This second year 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. There would also be other speakers and performers. The group also asks that the usage fee be waived.
   Motion: A. Mullady moved, and M. Von Conta seconded to approve the request and to waive the facility use fee.
   Vote: Unanimously approved. (Mr. Weber was not yet present)

2. Mary Louise Skarzynski – Memorial bench Request – Ms. Skarzynski, 136 Hawthorne Dr., was present to request a memorial bench at Jennings beach for her family and mother (Mary Louise Lucas) who lived in the Mill Plain area for years and always went to Jennings Beach as a regular outing (see attached). Mr. Calabrese had no objections and said that he could find a place on the beach but not near the pier.
   Motion: B. Nerreau moved, and B. McBride seconded to approve the request.
   Vote: Unanimously approved

3. Eric Johnson, Rocco & Assoc./Fairfield Police Dept. – 5K Race benefitting Bigelow Sr. Center – July 24, 2019, 6:30pm – Jacky Durrell/Penfield Parking Lot – Mr. Johnson, along with Keith Broderick of the Fairfield Police Department were present to make this request for second year event (see attached). Proceeds will be shared by both the Fairfield Police Union Scholarship Fund and the Friends of the Bigelow Center for Senior Activities. The event will be capped at 1000 participants. The entrants, who will have pre-paid, will wear a wrist band and will use the lots across the street for free parking and the wrist band will give access to the beer tent during the post-race activities. All will be monitored closely by the Fairfield Police as is the custom during Clam Jam. They will be renting the Jacky Durrell Pavilion.
   Motion: A. Mullady moved, and J. Benton seconded to approve the request and waive the facility use fee.
   Vote: Unanimously approved

4. Carly Smolick – Stratfield School PTA Plunge - Jennings Beach Lot – January 5, 2019
   Ms. Smolick, 304 Buena Vista Rd. was present to request permission to hold a fundraising Polar Plunge event for the second year on January 5, 2019 at Jennings Beach. They will provide insurance and be sure that the necessary emergency response teams are notified and on hand.
   Motion: B. Nerreau moved, and B. McBride seconded to approve the request.
   Vote: Unanimously approved

5. Fairfield Youth Football – Request for Scoreboard at Sullivan Pop Warner Field – Mollie Melbourne, 78 Gould Ave. was present to request permission for Fairfield Youth Football to install a new electronic scoreboard, which will be paid for by funds raised following the sad passing of Billy Therriault,
a former player. They have the support of Mr. Calabrese and will carefully install without damaging the field.

**Motion:** B. Nerreau *moved*, and A. Mullady *seconded* to approve the request.

**Vote:** *Unanimously approved*

6. Fairfield Youth Football – Request for Lights at Tomlinson Field – Buddy Zachary, Co-President of Fairfield Youth Football and a coach, was present to ask the Commission to approve the use 6 to 8 portable LED lights at Tomlinson School. Their highest point would be 21 feet. The league will bear the cost and the lights they intend to use will not require a noisy generator which should appease the one dissenting neighbor from years past when this was originally requested. The inverter that they will use will not require any electricity. They can be removed and stored when the season ends.

**Motion:** B. Nerreau *moved*, and A. Mullady *seconded* to approve the lights at Tomlinson School field with the stipulation that the usage will end at 8pm with no cost to the Town.

**Vote:** *Unanimously approved*

7. Christine Boccamazzo, D’s Angels Women’s Softball Team – Complaint- Ms. Christine Boccamazzo, 220 Southport Woods Dr. and Ms. Darlene Dougiello, 36 South Pine Creek Rd. were present to speak as members of D’s Angels Woman’s Recreation Softball team. The League Manager, James Staneck was also present along with members of another B division team, HPM&B. The D’s Angels team felt that it was unfairly and surprisingly confronted with having to play a double header that evening for the championship, after winning their game. The members of the team stated that it was their understanding that during the initial meeting of managers it was agreed that there would be no doubleheaders. They also felt that Mr. Staneck gave the 10-0 team every opportunity to play without forfeiting. Mr. Staneck disputed Ms. Dougiello’s and Ms. Boccamazzo’s remarks, stating that no vote was taken at the Manager’s meeting and when this topic came up he did state that doubleheaders would be necessary if there was no other option. Mr. Staneck also stated that he gave the team manager 6 days advance notice that if they won their game, they would need to play a double header due to continued postponement of previous games by both teams. He did state that he felt it was unfair to have a 10-0 team forfeit. Mr. Staneck mentioned that he does give the schedule and standings to Chris Sacco of the Recreation Department and perhaps he doesn’t post everything. The members of D’s Angels felt that it was a conflict of interest for Mr. Staneck to manage a team in the league and manage the league itself.

*Ms. Karen Vita, 118 School Street, and Sue Pfister, 47 Flax Road*, both members of HPM&B, stated that they feel they fairly won the championship and that doubleheaders have been played in the past. She added that if they knew the Dee’s Angels team didn’t intend to play a double header they would have tried to work something out but they were never notified so they, and all their supporters, and umpires were there to play. They stated that Mr. Staneck puts his heart and soul into the league, adding that they feel he is fair, open and communicative.

*Ms. Jackie Raimann, 10 Stilson Place*, a D’s Angels member, stated that they have played doubleheaders before but feels that it was not fair in a championship game situation.

*Stephanie Johnson 274 Hawthorne Drive*, a member of Flipside team, stated that removing Jim Staneck would be a detriment and that she felt the issue was one of age and that the D’s Angels team felt couldn’t physically play a doubleheader.

Mr. Benton spoke as a former Little League manager and wanted to reiterate that this should all be for fun and when it becomes more serious you have problems. He also felt that because the League Commissioner was often asked to make tough decision, they never wanted him to have a stake in the game so he was never allowed to be a team manager.

Ultimately Mr. Walker stated that there was no request before the Commission and that he hoped that any changes in the future such as taking votes and minutes at each yearly organizational meeting would help to alleviate issues in the future, as well as posting all games and scheduling on the website. The rules need to be agreed upon. He felt that any other issues should be dealt with by the Parks & Recreation staff and Director.

III. **PUBLIC INPUT:** None

IV. **NEW BUSINESS:** To hear and act upon: None
V. To hear and act upon information in Committee Reports:

A. HSR Building Committee – Ms. Mullady reported that she is no longer returning to the Building Committee as they have taken recreation programming off the table. Their charge is merely to “leave potential space for recreation programming.” Mr. Calabrese reported that the project that has been proposed within committee is $7 million. He believes that the number will need to be reduced in order to get it past Town Bodies. The timeline is to open summer, 2020. The concession will be a large piece of the puzzle. Mr. Walker let the Commission know that this item will be taken off the agenda until there is a matter that comes before them. Mr. Calabrese will report any important developments under the Director’s Report.

B. Marina Sub-Committee – Mr. Walker reported that the sub-committee met on September 11 and at that meeting Mr. Kenny reported that the slips openings have not changed: The fuel dock plan has changed in that The Department of Public Works will now be building the Gas Dock building. No price was mentioned. They expect it to be ready in spring. The sub-committee is still working on a few options for refurbishing the marina property. Mr. Walker and Mr. Nerreau have received the CAD (computer aided design) file and hope to bring a plan before the Commission soon. They continue to look at trends in the boating industry, fairway widths and safety in general. They believe the marina to be at the end of its useful life and want to present a plan that will last well into the future.

VI. BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT: No report in Ms. Gerber’s Absence.

VIII. DIRECTOR & PROGRAM REPORTS: Mr. Calabrese presented a written report (see attached).
Topics included:
- Resignation of the Marina Manager
- Budget work to begin soon
- New Fitness Center equipment
- Tennis Court resurfacing and power washing
- Sherman Green Drainage project
- Possibility of a sub-committee for rules and regulations

IX. GOOD OF THE ORDER – Next meeting on October 17 will be held elsewhere due to software training in this conference room.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Ryan, Recording Secretary