A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Fairfield was held on Wednesday, October 17, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Penfield Pavilion, Fairfield, Connecticut.

PRESENT: Scott Walker, Chairman, David Weber, Jamie Benton, Alexa Mullady, Mary VonConta, Bridget McBride, Jessica Gerber and Brian Nerreau

ABSENT: Chris McCoy

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

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

I. ACT ON MINUTES OF:
September 20, 2018 – Under Marina Report  Ms. Mullady asked that it be clarified that Mr. Kenny was reporting at the Marina Meeting and not at the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting. Hearing no objections other than this clarification, the minutes were approved as presented.

II. COMMUNICATIONS:
1. Rev. Norman Guilbert, - Holy Family Parish Carnival- May 17-19, 2019 Jennings Beach Lot - Brian Parisi, 58 Youngstown Rd., was present to let the Commission know that the parish no longer wanted to host a carnival but would prefer to hold a food truck event. Mr. Walker explained that because the request letter had only noted a carnival and therefore the agenda noticed a carnival, the members could not consider any other event that evening. Mr. Parisi will return after sending a new request. No action was taken.

2. Olson/Swezey Family – Memorial Bench Request – Jennings Beach- Ms. Judy Olson and Mrs. John Petch were present to request a memorial bench at Jennings beach in memory of John (husband and son-in-law) who passed away suddenly this fall and always enjoyed going to Jennings Beach. Mr. Calabrese had no objections and said that he could find a place on the beach but not near the pier.

   Motion: J. Gerber moved, and A. Mullady seconded to approve the request.

   Vote: Unanimously approved

3. Joann McMullan, Kennedy Center Autism Spect-Run – Jennings Beach- September 8, 2019 – Ms. McMullan was present to request permission for this third year 5K and walk event at Jennings Beach (see attached).

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

   Vote: Unanimously approved

4. Jan DeBona- Penfield Boat Rack Area Issues – Ms. DeBona, 570 Reid Street, was not in attendance however the members held a lengthy discussion regarding the issues in her letter (see attached). Ms. DeBona objected that there are no longer attendants available to assist in lifting boats on and off the rack. She also feels that because there is no attendant, boats are left on the ground rather than on their racks. She added that she has seen an uptick in weekend transient launching because no one is there to enforce the rules. Mr. Calabrese responded to Ms. DeBona’s concerns stating that this was a budget cut two summers ago and that if the members felt it was necessary he could reinstate the funds. He added that there are so few boaters who take advantage of the attendant that they were left sitting idle most of the day. Mr. Calabrese had tried an alternative solution last summer by having the Penfield and Jennings parking attendants and maintenance workers assist but this was not manageable. Mr. Calabrese stated that only three boat owners had contacted him regarding the lack of assistance at the two locations and added
that no other Towns offer this service. The office does try to accommodate owners who would prefer a lower rack. Risk Management also stated that they would prefer that the attendants did not help boat owners set up their sails as it left the Town open to liability. The Commission took no action.

III. PUBLIC INPUT: None

IV. NEW BUSINESS: To hear and act upon:

1. Creation of Rules Revision Sub-Committee – Mr. Calabrese asked that a sub-committee be created in response to the past few months’ field reservation issues as well as other areas that he believes need clarification. Giving examples, the Commission recently heard from American Little League who had a non-resident on their roster and therefore could not get blanket permit status. Following that, he learned that Rage Baseball had one non-resident player on their roster as well. Mr. Calabrese revoked their blanket permit and the parents have been calling in to reserve fields. When asked by Mr. Walker if he thought this was an intentional misrepresentation of the child’s residence, Mr. Calabrese responded in the affirmative. Mr. Walker asked that a representative from Rage be asked to return to the Commission to explain the situation. Mr. Benton, also in favor of creating a rules sub-committee, felt that several areas should be reviewed including the discount or waiver of fees to certain organizations. Ms. Von Conta felt that the rules should be clearer and better organized.

Motion: A. Mullady moved, and J. Benton seconded to create a sub-committee consisting of three members to assist Mr. Calabrese and staff in reviewing and revising the rules and regulations if necessary.

Vote: Unanimously approved

The following members agreed to sit on the Rules sub-committee: Jamie Benton, Alexa Mullady and David Weber.

2. Budget Planning Discussion – Mr. Calabrese told the Commission that in his budget planning he is looking at two revenue areas for increase. He would like action at the November meeting if possible.

- **Non-Resident Stickers** - He would like the members to consider raising non-resident beach stickers from $175.00 to $200.00. With approximately 1,600 passes sold it would raise almost $38,000. The pass would remain lower than most neighboring Towns.

- **Marina Rates** – He presented a power point showing comparisons to Westport, Greenwich and Stamford. Still far below in every size category, he showed possible percentage increases of 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25%.

### Local Comparisons

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<tr>
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<th>SBM</th>
<th>Westport</th>
<th>Greenwich</th>
<th>Stamford</th>
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<tr>
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### Proposed Percentage increases

<table>
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<th>Present</th>
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<th>10% inc.</th>
<th>15% inc.</th>
<th>20% inc.</th>
<th>25% inc.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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Members agreed with Mr. Calabrese’s two areas for increased revenue. Some felt the non-resident stickers could go as high as $300.00. All were interested in getting near or at competitive pricing for the Marina. Ms. Mullady suggested discussing all the rates for comparison even if they were higher than 25%. Ms. Von Conta remarked the marina, at the end of its useful life, cannot be rebuilt without raising the fees. Mr. Calabrese suggested 10% and as the marina plans become firm then future rates could go higher. Members felt it was time to get in line with other marinas. Mr. Calabrese will come with a request next month. Ms. McBride asked that discussion be limited at the meeting if a large number of boaters come to speak.

V. To hear and act upon information in Committee Reports:
A. Marina Sub-Committee – Mr. Walker reported that the sub-committee met on October 9 and continues to work on a new marina plan to allocate the boats throughout in a safe and fair way. They hope to bring something before the full Commission by December. The Gas Dock is now going to be built by DPW. It goes before Town Planning and Zoning in October/November. Dredging will now be pushed to winter 2019 due to missed approval deadlines.

VI. BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT: Ms. Gerber reported:
- Summer work is complete at all facilities.
- The Warde turf has taken longer than expected but is complete. Long jump pit and scoreboard are also complete. Mr. Calabrese noted that some seem displeased with the logo on the field.
- Enrollment is slightly down.
- There was a Special Education audit and the report is due in November.
- They have approved new graduation requirements that will affect this year’s 8th graders.
- There is concern about space at the ECC building at Warde. One class has been moved to Stratfield.
- The condition of the Walter Fitzgerald campus at St. Emery’s is receiving low marks. They have renewed the lease for one year but are looking for a new location.
- Due to continued racial imbalance, redistricting work is still being considered and a consultant is working with Dr. Jones and staff.

VIII. DIRECTOR & PROGRAM REPORTS: Mr. Calabrese presented a written report (see attached). New topics included:
- All fitness equipment has been replaced and is being well received.
- Sherman Green Drainage replacement will be complete in coming weeks.
- New Software goes “Live” on November 1.
- Farmer’s Market wrapped up and was successful again, this year taken on financially by the Town, but run by Mr. and Mrs. Auer.

IX. GOOD OF THE ORDER – Next meeting on November 14 should be held at the Penfield Pavilion in order to have room for boaters who may want to come speak regarding rates. When asked if the Department should send out any notification regarding rates, it was decided that they should not set precedent by singling out any one group for special notification regarding agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Ryan, Recording Secretary