TOWN OF FAIRFIELD  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
Minutes of January 16, 2019

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Fairfield was held on Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Eunice Postol Recreation Center, Fairfield, Connecticut.

PRESENT: Scott Walker, Chairman; David Weber, Alexa Mullady, Mary Von Conta, Bridget McBride, Jessica Gerber, Chris McCoy and Brian Nerreau
ABSENT: Jamie Benton
ALSO: Anthony Calabrese, Director; Parks & Recreation Department; Gaylen Brown, Assistant Director; Parks & Recreation Department

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

I. ACT ON MINUTES OF: December 19, 2018 – Hearing no objections the minutes were approved as written.

II. COMMUNICATIONS: To hear and act upon:
1. Amy Hios- Memorial Bench request – This matter was tabled until Ms. Hios could appear.

III. PUBLIC INPUT: None

IV. NEW BUSINESS: To hear and act upon:
1. Perry’s Green Fees – This matter was tabled until Mr. Calabrese is able to provide some additional information from the Harbor Commission.
2. Pavilion Pricing -
   a. Memorial Services – Jacky Durrell and Penfield Pavilion – To increase revenue, Ms. Brown asked the Commission to consider special pricing for Memorial Services or Celebrations of Life that are booked in the short term, up to two weeks prior, when the building might otherwise sit vacant (see attached). Members had a lengthy discussion regarding whether this might be seen as any sort of discrimination. Ms. Brown wanted to market to funeral homes who could suggest the venue. Ms. Mullady and Mr. McCoy felt that perhaps they could market at the current prices to see if that was sufficient to bring in additional revenue. This could be revisited in a year.

Motion: D. Weber made a motion, seconded by B. Nerreau to approve the suggested Memorial Service rates at Jacky Durrell and Penfield Pavilion.

Vote: 6-2-1 (Mullady and McCoy opposed, Walker abstained)

b. Non-Profit (501C-3) Renters– In response to numerous non-profit requests, Ms. Brown suggested creating a non-profit tier to drive business to off-peak times at the Penfield Pavilion (see attached). Members asked Ms. Brown to provide percentages of current non-profit business and what percentage already takes place on Monday through Thursday.

Motion: B. Nerreau made a motion, seconded by B. McBride to delay this request until requested information is provided by the staff.

Vote: 7-1-1 (D. Weber opposed, S. Walker abstained)

3. Water Lantern Festival Proposal – Ms. Brown presented information for an event that she hopes to hold at Lake Mohegan on the weekend of Sept 7/8. Food trucks and music would also
accompany this event, run by an outside vendor, where people decorate and release LED-lit rice
lanterns into the water. She hopes to charge the event company $2500.

After lengthy discussion, Ms. Brown was asked to learn the following:

- Could the Town choose to which charity proceeds would go and at what percentage?
- Does the company cap the number of Tickets sold?
- Who provides and pays for security, (Police and fire)?
- Who provides the Food Trucks?
- What kind of insurance is needed, according to Risk Management?
- Can she ask the Town who is holding the April 13 event in CT to describe their
  experience?

Ms. Brown will report back to the Commission after learning more.

4. Save The Children Polar Plunge - Mr. Walker asked to add this request to the agenda due to
timing constraints.

**Motion:** B. Nerreau made a motion, seconded by C. McCoy to add the Save the Children Plunge request to the agenda.

**Vote:** Unanimous

A request for a polar plunge on Sunday, February 17 at Jennings Beach was made earlier in the
day, too late to make the agenda.

**Motion:** B. Nerreau made a motion, seconded by C. McCoy to approve a Save the Children Plunge request.

**Vote:** Unanimous

V. To hear and act upon information in Committee Reports:

A. Marina Sub-Committee – Mr. Walker reported:

- The sub-committee met on January 8 and Brian Nerreau is the new chairman for 2019.
  Mr. Nerreau continued the remainder of the report with assistance from Mr. Walker.
- The Gas Dock building has been demolished and they hope for a new building by mid-
  April.
- The draft dredging applications have been submitted and nothing is on the State website
  as of yet.
- The sub-committee has done work on an 11th rendering for a new marina design. They
  feel that they can now return to RACE to ask for a true-engineered rendering. This will
  cost an additional $3000 over what has been paid for RACE to create the previous 9
  renderings but the members feel that this newer plan is closer to meeting the needs of the
  current boating community, while addressing the survey-driven concerns which were
  safety at the docks and in navigation. While this 11th option does create a loss of 94 boats,
  they see this happening over several years through attrition. When asked what the cost
  would be, Mr. Walker explained that any price quote would be an estimate based on
  RACE’s original quote which was a range of $1.1 million for a small upgrade to $5.2
  million for a total new marina. He felt that their latest option would be on the higher end
  of that estimate.

**Motion:** J. Gerber made a motion, seconded by B. McBride to approve the request for $3000 to
be paid to RACE for further design renderings.

**Vote:** Unanimous

While several members of the public tried to speak about certain aspects of the project, Mr.
Walker reminded the public that their comments must be related to the motion. One member of
the public asked if the $3000 would be paid by the boaters and he was told that it would not.
Mr. Calabrese stated that he would ask Public Works to share the cost with the Recreation Department. Mr. Walker explained that this is just a first step in a very long project.

B. Rules Sub-Committee – Mr. Walker reported that the sub-committee had begun its work and elected Mr. Weber chairman of the committee. Mr. Weber reported:

- The sub-committee had an organizational meeting on January 15. They will address the current sections one by one. They ask that the Marina sub-committee look at the Marina portion. Ms. Mullady understands that this was done several years ago and may not need too much work.
- They will be looking to add the few Town areas such as Tennis Center and So. Pine Creek Building that are not presently included.
- Meetings scheduled are February 5 and 19, March 5 and 19.

VI. BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT: Ms. Gerber reported:

- The Board of Selectmen approved the Capital Expenses for the year. Including, Security Updates, Partial roof at Stratfield, A/C controls at both Dwight and Warde, Ludlowe HS Tennis court repairs, and Partial flooring at Tomlinson M.S. This plan will now go on to Bd. of Finance and RTM.
- Budget work is being done and they expect to take final vote on January 24. The increase presently is 4.99% with maintenance and contracts responsible for most of that increase.

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

- Spring brochure is set to go to the printer.
- Beach Sticker Sales going well.
- Finalizing the hiring of a new Marina Manager.
- A “Gal”entine’s Day Dance is planned for February at Penfield Pavilion.
- Funding for the HSR Clubhouse has received approval from Bd. of Selectmen and Bd. of Finance and must meet the final approval of the RTM at the end of January.

IX. GOOD OF THE ORDER – Mr. Walker asked if all agreed to his proposal of getting on the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance to update them on the Marina plans. All agreed. Mr. Walker also thanked the members for their support in keeping things on track during the marina portion of the meeting. Ms. Mullady suggested perhaps holding a “Boater’s meeting” and allowing speakers a two-minute platform. Ms. Gerber suggested perhaps holding Town Hall meetings similar to those of the Board of Education. Mr. Calabrese agreed that this was a good idea and likened it to his Wednesday morning Conversations that he holds at the Parks & recreation Department each week. Ms. Mullady voiced her appreciation for all the innovative ideas that Mr. Calabrese and Ms. Brown are bringing to Town. She is pleased to see the department “creating recreation”.

Ms. Fournier of the Parks Department let the members know that she is hearing displeasure from boaters who have been receiving email notifications from an anonymous group.

Max Rothman – 62 Louvain St. Let the members know that he attended the meeting because of the anonymous email and was pleased to hear what is being done and how the sub-committee is going about things.

Mr. Calabrese reported that he has recently received a Freedom of Information request for the Department’s entire listing for anyone who has a current beach sticker. After consulting with
the Town Attorney and Human Resources, and others, he has learned that he must comply with the request and anyone who gives their name, address, email, phone number to a Town or Government agency, must understand that this information (anything not pertaining to financials) is considered public record.

Mike O’Hare – 100 Eunice Avenue - Asked the proper procedure for asking for a temporary reduction in slip fees for the coming year prior to his renewal. Mr. Walker asked him to come before the sub-committee.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Ryan, Recording Secretary