A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Fairfield was held on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Eunice Postol Recreation Center, Fairfield, Connecticut.

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

ABSENT: David Weber

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: April 24, 2019 – Hearing no objections the minutes were approved as written. (J. Benton and J. Gerber not yet present).

II. COMMUNICATIONS: To hear and act upon:

1. Gregory Sargent - YMCA - Mr. Sargent was present to request permission to hold a repeat swim event at Penfield Beach benefitting the YMCA Annual Campaign. The change to this year’s event will be the addition of a more challenging 2.2-mile swim. YMCA lifeguards will be on site as well as 8 kayaks and 3 power boats in the water. Liability waivers will be signed.

Motion: B. Nerreau made a motion, seconded by C. McCoy to approve the annual swim event hosted by the YMCA.

Following safety discussion, Ms. Mullady raised the question of the need for an ambulance on site. Some felt that this was a worthwhile requirement while others felt that it was a burden on the YMCA when an ambulance could be there quickly when called.

Amended Motion: A. Mullady moved to amend the motion to add that an ambulance be required on site during the event. Ms. McBride seconded the amendment.

Vote: 3-4 Amendment is defeated.

Original Motion – VOTE- 5-3 (Mullady and McBride and Von Conta opposed)

III. PUBLIC INPUT: None

IV. NEW BUSINESS: None

V. To hear and act upon information in Reports:

A. Rules Sub-Committee Report – Ms. Mullady reported in Mr. Weber’s absence that the sub-committee was prepared to put forward the work that was sent by Mr. Weber.

Motion: J. Gerber made a motion, seconded by A. Mullady to approve the revisions to the Parks & Recreation Rules and Regulations as submitted.

Ms. McBride asked the members to consider making further prohibitions for smoking on the beach. She submitted the following two options for discussion:
OPTION A:

I propose to make the following change to the Rules and Regulations Section 11 (c):

(c) From Memorial Day Saturday until Labor Day Monday, Jennings Beach will have designated smoking areas and will prohibit smoking in other areas on that beach. Smoking will be prohibited in Concession areas on all beaches. Smoking is prohibited on all town beaches, including the Concession areas. Smoking is prohibited on all town beaches, including the concession areas.

OPTION B:

I propose to make the following change to the Rules and Regulations Section 11 (c):

(c) From Memorial Day Saturday until Labor Day Monday, Jennings Beach will have designated smoking areas and will prohibit smoking in other areas on that beach. Smoking will be prohibited in Concession areas on all beaches. Smoking is prohibited on all town beaches, including the concession areas. Smoking exemption for special events held at Penfield Pavilion and Jacky Durrell Pavilion with advance approval of Parks and Recreation Department.

**Amended Motion:** B. McBride moved, seconded by J. Gerber to amend the motion to make the following change to the Rules and Regulations Section 11 (c):

Smoking is prohibited on all town beaches, including the concession areas. Smoking exemption for special events held at Penfield Pavilion and Jacky Durrell Pavilion with advance approval of Parks and Recreation Department.

The members had a lengthy discussion as to how other Towns deal with smoking and if they should include vaping/e-cigarettes in the rule. Ms. Mullady expressed the fact that she didn’t want to regulate for smokers’ health but rather for non-smokers. Mr. Walker took a “Sense of the Body” to determine how they wanted to proceed. All agreed that they wanted to wait 30 days and allow for public comment at the June meeting.

**Motion:** A. Mullady made a motion, seconded by B. McBride to table the motion until the next meeting where the public has an opportunity to speak to the matter.

**Vote: Unanimous**

**B. BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT**: Ms. Gerber reported:

- A Music Curriculum was approved for grades 6-12.
- H.S. Graduations - Time was changed from 6pm to 5pm.
- Redistricting conversation is ongoing and was a major topic at the Town Hall meeting on 4/30. Sites for the Early Childhood Centers were also a point of discussion.
- Solar plan approvals were given for rooftops at Burr and RLMS as well as the carport at Holland Hill. The carport at Stratfield was not approved.
- The budget was cut and now adjustments need to be approved. This will be discussed at the June meeting.
- Superintendent search is ongoing but Interim Superintendent Tracey was approved.

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

- Beach Sticker sales are tracking similarly to last year. There will be additional revenue due to increase of $25 per non-resident sticker. Penfield locker sales are still disappointing.
• Beaches will open May 25. DPW and Waterfront staff are preparing.
• 2019-20 budget was approved by the RTM. The only change was the elimination of a BOF addition of a $25K Sinking Fund for the Marina.
• The Gas Dock is nearing completion. The concessionaire bid closes on Friday, May 17. The building and gas pumps are expected to be up and running for Memorial Day.
• Penfield is hosting a DIY workshop collaborating with A/R (Anders/Ruff) on May 16. It is sold out. Summer Comedy Nights begin May 23. This show is expected to sell out as well.
• The Department is hosting water safety events through the CT. Recreation and Parks Assn. at all the camps and possibly other venues. He hopes to reach over 1000 campers and others.

IX. GOOD OF THE ORDER – No Discussion

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Ryan, Recording Secretary