A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Fairfield was held on Wednesday, June 19, 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, David Weber, and Brian Nerreau

ABSENT: None

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: May 15, 2019 – Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved as written.

II. COMMUNICATIONS: To hear and act upon:

A. Santina Jaronko, Fairfield Cares – In Ms. Jaronko’s absence, Jahliiah Green was present for Fairfield Cares to request permission to hold a vigil at the Sherman Green for those who have lost loved ones to overdoses. The event would take place on Aug 30 from 6-8:30p.m.

Motion: A. Mullady made a motion, seconded by B. Nerreau to approve the 2nd Annual Overdose Vigil at Sherman Green on August 30.

Vote: Unanimous (Walker abstained).

B. Peggy Hodgkins, Trinity Episcopal Church – Summer Services – In Rev. Hodgkin’s absence, parishioner Michael Banton was present to request permission for the Trinity Episcopal Church to hold services on Southport beach on Sunday, August 25 and September 1, 2019 at 8:30 am.

Motion: J. Gerber made a motion, seconded by B. McBride to approve the summer services for the Trinity Episcopal Church as requested.

Vote: Unanimous (Walker abstained).

C. Mindy Morgan – McKinley School Carnival – April 19-26, 2020 - Ms. Morgan was present to request permission for McKinley School to hold their carnival on April 24-26 with setup starting on April 19, 2020

Motion: J. Gerber made a motion, seconded by A. Mullady to approve the McKinley Carnival at Jennings Beach parking Lot as requested.

Vote: Unanimous (Walker abstained).

D. Ian Bass- Noise Issues at Penfield Pavilion – Mr. Bass, President of the Fair Acres Association was present to request that some consideration be given to changing the hours for events not yet contracted at Penfield and Jacky Durrell pavilions due to the disruption that some neighbors endure late at night and early in the morning. Mr. Bass presented and read from a letter (see attached). Mr. Bass explained that on the morning of the Half Marathon, bagpipers were practicing at 7 am. Mr. Walker noted that this is a once a year event and hoped that this could be taken into consideration. It was also explained that Fitness Instructors, yelling instructions very early in the morning are not given permits from the Department or
Commission. Mr. Bass stated the RTM Noise Ordinance and reported that Police are receptive but usually by the time they arrive, the offenders are gone. There was no further discussion or action taken.

III. PUBLIC INPUT: None

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Main Motion to approve the revisions to the Parks & Recreation Rules and Regulations as submitted on May 15, 2019, and Amendment to main motion to ban smoking on beaches and concession areas

Motion: A. Mullady moved and D. Weber seconded to take the following motion from the table.

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.

Vote: Unanimous

Ms. McBride stated that she wanted to make changes to her original motion from last month’s meeting. Mr. Walker suggested that the original motion be withdrawn and new motion be introduced.

Motion: B. McBride moved and D. Weber seconded to withdraw the following motion from the table.

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.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion: B. McBride moved and J. Gerber seconded to amend Sections 11C and 45B to read:

11C: Smoking and vaping is prohibited on all town beaches, including the concession areas. A smoking exemption for special events held at Penfield Pavilion and Jacky Durrell Pavilion will be considered with advance approval from the Parks & Recreation Department. Smoking refers to the use of traditional tobacco products. Vaping refers to the use of electronic nicotine delivery systems or electronic devices. These are commonly called e-cigarettes, e-pipes, e-hookahs, and e-cigars.

Section 45B: Smoking and vaping is prohibited at all town parks and school fields, including the concession areas. Smoking refers to the use of traditional tobacco products. Vaping refers to the use of electronic nicotine delivery systems or electronic or electronic devices. These are commonly called e-cigarettes, e-pipes, e-hookahs, and e-cigars.

The members had a lengthy discussion.

Ms. Mullady expressed the fact that, while she agrees with the main idea of the two rules revisions, she has two issues with the motion. She is not a fan of the exemption for Special Events, and she does not support the vaping inclusion. As a “former vaper”, it helped her to quit smoking. She also does not feel it produces second-hand smoke, odor, or trash to be disposed of. All agreed that the exemption for special events was not needed. Ms. McBride stated that she included the vaping because she finds it hard to separate the two, especially when explaining to young children. Ms. Gerber mentioned that as a representative from the Board of Education perspective, they have a huge problem with vaping and Juuling at the Middle and High School levels.
Events at the pavilions were discussed and it was felt that receptacles could be placed near the parking lots with rules stated clearly in contracts. Signs would be installed to make all aware of the rules. While the lifeguard staff does not enforce the rules they can make offenders aware and call authorities if needed.

**Motion:** D. Weber made a motion, seconded by B. McBride to amend the amendment by striking the following sentence from the rule 11C proposal: *A smoking exemption for special events held at Penfield Pavilion and Jacky Durrell Pavilion will be considered with advance approval from the Parks & Recreation Department.*

**Vote:** Unanimous

Some felt that defining the types of products might restrict them in the future and cause for more revisions, especially if marijuana is legalized in the future.

**Motion:** D. Weber made a motion, seconded by B. McBride to amend the amendment to both Sections 11C and 45 B proposals by striking the following sentences: *Smoking refers to the use of traditional tobacco products. Vaping refers to the use of electronic nicotine delivery systems or electronic devices. These are commonly called e-cigarettes, e-pipes, e-hookahs, and e-cigars.*

**Vote:** Unanimous

Ms. Mullady wanted it made clear that she will not support these amendments to the rules, not because she against the idea of banning smoking at the beaches and parks, but because she is against including vaping in the proposal.

**Vote on amended rules 11C and 45B:** 7-1 (Mullady opposed, Walker abstained).

**Motion to adopt the revisions to the Parks and Recreation Rules and Regulations as bought forth on May 15, 2019 as recommended and amended.**

**Vote:** Unanimous (Walker abstained).

**V. NEW BUSINESS:** To hear and act upon any business that may properly come before the Commission. : NONE

**VI. To hear and act upon information in Reports:**

**A. Marina Sub-Committee Report** – Mr. Nerreau reported on business that took place on Tuesday, June 11. As of June 6th the marina currently has 568 slips assigned and 30 offers out. The Small wait list has now moved to the post-September 2015 rules indicating that slip holders have 10 days to respond, pay a prorated fee and 1 year to get a boat in the water.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Assigned</th>
<th>568</th>
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<tr>
<td>Small</td>
<td>320</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>57</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large</td>
<td>159</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Premium</td>
<td>32</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current Offers</th>
<th>45B</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Small</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6/20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Large</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6/20</td>
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With regard to dredging, the CT DEEP COP permit is expected to be received. Town Engineering Department Staff is currently preparing an application for a Coastal Area Management Plan to be submitted to the Fairfield Planning & Zoning Commission in mid-June. The allowable time of work according to permits is 10/1/19 to 1/31/20. However, if the work begins on the first allowable date, it will restrict access to the Sound for our boaters. If we wait until after the Marina is officially closed, the dredging won’t begin until 11/18/19 at the earliest. The Commission should begin weighing the pros & cons of the start date. The Town has applied for a Small Harbor Improvements Projects Program (SHIPP) grant for the South Benson Marina Channel Dredging project. This is specifically for municipalities to conduct a project that improves the infrastructure or management of their waterway. The project is not dependent on this grant. If successful, this would allow the Town to spend some State money instead of the entire $700K that was approved for this work. It may also allow the Town to dredge further into Long Island Sound than originally planned.

The milestone dates for this grant are as follows:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 24, 2019</td>
<td>SHIPP Grant Opportunity Announced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 12, 2019</td>
<td>Deadline to submit grant application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 24, 2019</td>
<td>Connecticut Port Authority deadline-Rating-Selection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 26, 2019</td>
<td>Connecticut Port Authority Request to State Bond Commission.</td>
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</tbody>
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The Gas Concession was awarded to Eric Peterson, South Benson Outfitters on May 23, 2019, and he began operations the next day at 8:00AM in time for the Memorial Day weekend. The new Concession building and deck is nearing full completion and they are awaiting the Certificate of Occupancy. Mr. Nerreau explained that they soon hope to have the full results from the survey taken at the Public Hearing on April 23. While the responses did vary significantly with regards to preferences and likes and dislikes related to the plans, there appeared to be a good sense that a majority want very little change and, therefore, the Commission is working on an Option 12 that would include some upgrades and additional spacing with perhaps an added dock on the north side. As the main priority is, and has always been, safety and reacting to the survey taken initially, they will continue to work with RACE on these aspects. Mr. Nerreau felt that an ongoing “evaluate and maintain”, “break it/fix it” situation could be likely.

B. Board of Education Report: Ms. Gerber reported:

- Superintendent’s Awards were given out at the May meeting.
- H.S. Graduations took place on 6/14.
- The change for Mill Hill renovation education specification plans from the proposed 504 to a 441 plan will be voted on by the RTM next week.
- Sites for the Early Childhood Centers were still a point of discussion.
- There will be a vote on the new homework policy next week.
- Superintendent Jones’ last day is June 28. The search is ongoing but Interim Superintendent Tracey will be on board until a new candidate is chosen which they hope to be mid-summer.
C. DIRECTOR & PROGRAM REPORTS: Mr. Calabrese presented a written report (see attached). Topics included:

- Summer programming is in full swing! Playground camps begin on Monday, June 24. The beaches are open and staffed full-time beginning this past weekend. The fiscal year ends on June 30.
- The fireworks show is scheduled for Wednesday, July 3 beginning at dark. Westport is hosting their show the same night, so you may be able to watch two shows at once.
- Free Family Fun events have kicked off as well. We held our first summer Sand Jam last Friday night at Jennings Beach with a showing of Ralph Breaks the Internet to a large crowd of families with small children. Today was the first day of the Peanut Butter Jam concerts on the Sherman Green.
- The Department is proud to participate in Make Music Day this Friday, June 21 on the Sherman Green with various musicians playing from 3:00pm – 9:00pm. The department has also partnered with the Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association to hold a “Christmas in July” toy drive to benefit Christmas Wish CT. They will be collecting new, unwrapped toys during the month of July.
- Tomorrow night the Department is hosting its second Sold Out comedy night at Penfield Pavilion as part of the Penfield Comedy Series. There are additional shows booked for July 25 and August 29.
- Some new programs and events coming up in the near future include: S’mores Sundays, Jaws 2 Dive-in Movie, Light up the Night, Woodstock Anniversary Concert
- The Department has also tried to streamline a food truck offering at our Sasco and Southport beaches.
- A summer volleyball league will be starting in July at Veterans Park.
- The Department is partnering with our Conservation Department/Commission to offer shellfish permits online for the first time. This program has been very well received by the shellfish community. It is also in the process of working with our Tree Warden to bring the Fairfield Tree Planting Program online for residents to purchase trees.
- Mr. Calabrese will be working with Marina Manager Cathcart to create a Marina Newsletter.
- Mr. Calabrese has begun a playground evaluation and will start a 5-10 year replacement funding for new equipment.

Ms. McBride asked about a recent discussion on the Mom’s site on Facebook dealing with babysitters having access to the beach in their non-resident cars. The staff explained that this is a very difficult thing to police as then they could use any car at any time.

Mr. Nerreau asked if there was any update on dogs at Lake Mohegan. Mr. Calabrese stated that he had heard nothing new from the Conservation Department to date.

IX. GOOD OF THE ORDER – None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Ryan, Recording Secretary