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

PRESENT: Scott Walker, Chairman; Alexa Mullady, Bridget McBride, Brian Nerreau, Chris McCoy and Mary Von Conta,
ABSENT: Jessica Gerber, Jamie Benton, and David Weber
ALSO: Anthony Calabrese, Dir. Parks & Recreation, Justin Cathcart, Marina Manager

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

I. ACT ON MINUTES OF: September 18, 2019 – Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved as written.

II. COMMUNICATIONS: To hear and act upon:
A. John Calandriello – Half Marathon & 5 K – June 6 & 7, 2020 – Jennings Beach Lot – John Calandriello was not in attendance to present. A. Mullady asked that since there were no changes from previous year, why this is not automatically approved. Chris McCoy agreed that they were passed the 5 year mark and should be approved. A. Calabrese and S. Walker stated that due to the size of the event it has been policy to have this request come before the Commission each year in order to give the public an opportunity to ask questions. 
Motion: A. Mullady made a motion, seconded by B. Nerreau to approve the request. 
Vote: Unanimous

B. Al’s Angels & Saugatuck Sweets – Tree Donation to Sherman Green
Al DiGuido, 28 Reef Road was present to make this request to donate a spruce tree to have planted at the Sherman Green and he would like to have it lit from November 30th through January 15. He stated that he would be responsible for maintaining the tree and pay for the electrical costs associated with it. He also wanted to have the area schools involved and create ornaments for the tree. Extra ornaments could be used for fundraisers for the schools. Mr. DiGuido also stated that he would like to have a drawing each year to have a tree planted at a selected school. S. Walker stated that the commission cannot approve individual school plantings and he would need to contact the Board of Ed for approval. B. McBride stated that 1) although she loved the idea, she questioned whether this would interfere with any other events on the Green. A. Calabrese stated that the Chamber of Commerce has Santa on the Green and Small Business Saturday, but that they would just need to figure out logistics. 2) Would the tree be permanent? A. DiGuido stated that the #1 goal would be a permanent tree, however if not possible, a ball tree would be fine. 3) Placement concerns. A. Calabrese said that they would need to be sensitive to where the tree was placed due to the concerts on the green and the Farmer’s Market. M. Von Conta stated that he needed to be conscious of religious conflicts. A. DiGuido stated that this was a “Holiday Tree” it would not be representative of any religion. C. McCoy questioned 1) how it would fit in the current landscape. A. Calabrese stated that there is plenty of room to place it, but would need to get the tree warden involved.
Motion: B. Nerreau made a motion, seconded by A. Mullady to approve the event as requested. 
Vote: Unanimous
C. Aidan Gouley – “Little Libraries” donation - Mill Hill Field & Sandcastle Playground – Aidan Gouley, 1540 Unquowa Road, Fairfield, CT a Freshman at Regis High School in NYC needed to do a service project and wanted to establish lending libraries. He brought a sample of what the box would look like and stated that he would have it stained (not painted) with a small gold plaque on it. He would like to have one placed at Mill Hill baseball field and one at the Sandcastle playground. He already had approval from the Board of Ed with regards to placement at Mill Hill. The books at Mill Hill would be primarily about baseball and geared towards kids age 7 – 13. The books at the Sandcastle would be children’s books geared towards ages 1 – 7 such as “Good Night Moon”. The books would be on an honor code system and he would be checking in regularly to maintain the “Little Libraries”. Aidan’s sister, who is in 7th grade at RLMS will assist. The anticipated start date would be in the spring (April) and they would be removed for the winter. For Mill Hill, he would like to coordinate it with the Little League opening day. C. McCoy wanted to know if there would be instructions on how the honor code works and if there would be a succession plan once he leaves and his sister ages out. A. Mullady suggested that once his sister and he age out, that perhaps the schools (Mill Hill and Sherman (being closest to the Sandcastle) could take it over and maintain it. B. McBride also loved the idea and felt that it teaches kids a lesson regarding the honor code but also felt that there needed to be a succession plan and that there would be a need to have instructions on how to use it. M. Von Conta asked if it was lending library and Aidan explained that it was on the honor code and you could take a book and replace it with one, or just take one and return when finished.

Motion: B. Nerreau made a motion, seconded by B. McBride to approve the request.

Vote: Unanimous

D. Seth Stein, Jessica Rekos Foundation – Playground Palooza – Penfield Beach/Jacky Durrell Pavilion – Seth Stein, 63 Sherman St. W., Fairfield, CT - Gave a recap of this event that they had just had last week, giving the history of the playground and that his daughter has the same birthday as Jessica, so to honor his daughter he decided to contact Jessica’s mom and put this event together. All of the monies go to the foundation and this year they raised $12K. He would like to see this become an annual event in Fairfield. Seth stated they would like to book Jacky Durrell for 10/3/2020 stating that this was the only date that would work since Jacky Durrell is only open until mid-October, and horses only start to be allowed on the beach as of October 1st. The following weekend would interfere with the Jewish Holiday. A. Calabrese wanted to know what was being approved. Seth stated that they are looking to rent the building and to have use of the beach. Seth stated that at this year’s event, the horseback riding was corralled off by DPW with bike racks in order to protect the horses and the people. There was also a small petting zoo and the use of the picnic tables for horseshoe painting and face painting. They would like to duplicate this next year. C. McCoy asked how many people attended this year’s event. Seth responded that there were approximately 200 people in attendance. A. Mullady asked whether there would be a rain date, in which Seth replied that due to the restriction of the date, there would be no rain date. M. Von Conta asked about the clean up afterwards, especially the horses. Seth assured her that their staff takes care of all the cleanup.

Motion: C. McCoy made a motion, seconded by A. Mullady to approve the request.

Vote: Unanimous
III. PUBLIC INPUT: None

IV. NEW BUSINESS: To hear and act upon any business that may properly come before
the Commission: None

V. To hear and act upon information in Reports:

A. Marine Sub-Committee Report
1. Joseph Regensberger Appeal – Did not appear again this month. This will be moved to
the November Agenda.

2. General Report – Given by Justin Cathcart
J. Cathcart reported that this year they sold 339 small slips, 58 medium slips, and 196 large slips,
for a total of 593. For Winter Storage, 74 Dry Storage sold out of a maximum of 120. 11 Wet
Storage sold and expect close to sell out of Dry Storage and 10 – 15 more in Wet Storage. They
do limit it to 130 in H & I dock to over 26 and under 36.

The town provides bubblers and they are paid out of electric monies. G-I dock and a couple on
A dock. M. Von Conta asked if someone monitors the bubblers. J. Cathcart responded that they
have heat sensors and DPW and himself check them several times a week.

Dredging Bid: Awarded to Mobile Dredging & Video Pipe, Inc. out of Pennsylvania. It will be
hydraulic dredging. The start date will be November 4th. They will be able to keep channel open
with occasional slow down. As of November 11th, they will be at it full force. S. Walker
inquired as to the duration of the project. J. Cathcart responded that they stated they would be
done by the end of the year, however, he anticipates giving them some extra time to finish. B.
Nerreau asked about whether they were going to have a schedule go out to boaters notifying
them of. J. Cathcart said that the boaters, kayak and sunfish rack owners will be notified via
email and updates given as given to him. As of 11/4 until the completion of the project, anything
from J4 to the right will be open. The left side will be closed. A. Calabrese added that the path
to the fishing pier will only be open a quarter of the way down, with no access to the pier and
part of the parking lot closest to the Coast Guard building will be closed. The First Selectman’s
Office, Parks and Recreation and the Marina will provide public notices. DPW will be providing
signage.

B. Nerreau asked if Justin had heard back on the SHIPP grant. J. Cathcart responded that he has
not heard back but and believes that there will not be any SHIPP grants issued this year. Based
upon the approved bid, he believes that there will be sufficient funds to allow Mobile Dredging
and Video Pipe to dredge well into the channel beyond the fishing pier. A. Calabrese added that
they will be reevaluating half way through.

S. Walker asked that if they were going to stop short of dredging goals due to exhausted funds,
can we reconvene to come back and ask for the monies to complete. A. Calabrese advised that
it would be a 2 month process which needs to go to Board of Finance. If they need additional
funding, they could call for a special meeting. S. Walker just asked that they keep the
Commission in the loop of progress.

B. Board of Education Report: None
VI. DIRECTOR & PROGRAM REPORTS: Mr. Calabrese presented a written report:

- Our Rec soccer season is winding down and will be finishing up this weekend. It was another successful season with approximately 1,500 or so participants. The staff is now gearing up for our winter programming. Our Fairfield Farmer’s Market has also concluded for the season. Once again, we ended the season with a small surplus of funds.
- The Fairfield Museum is hosting their annual Halloween on the Green on October 27th, 2019 from 12:00pm – 4:00pm on the museum commons. This event is free and open to all ages. Pink Pledge held their pink bench dedication a few weeks ago. The bench the Commission approved looks fantastic and has been a great addition to the Sherman Green.
- Chairman Scott Walker and I presented the field testing recommendation to the Board of Selectmen. After some discussion, they voted unanimously to test the rest of the fields and parks under our purview.
- I will most likely bring forth budget recommendations at the November meeting. If there is anything specific item you would like me to address in our budget please let me know. For this coming winter, we plan on doing some updating of the floors in the Jacky Durrell Pavilion, we may have to also do some updates to the walls to match the flooring.
- Gaylen Brown returns to the office tomorrow from her maternity leave. We are very happy to have her back with the team!

VII. GOOD OF THE ORDER – None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Brown,
Substituting for Recording Secretary