

**TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes of May 19, 2021**

A tele-conference meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Fairfield was held on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Brian Nerreau, Chairman; Bridget McBride, Chris McCoy, Bonnie Rotelli, and Margaret Horton Weeks

ALSO: Anthony Calabrese, Dir. Parks & Recreation,

ABSENT: Jamie Benton, Dylan O'Connor, MacKay Jameson and David Weber
Chairman Brian Nerreau called meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

I. Act on Minutes –

April 19, 2021 - Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved as written.

II. Public Input: To discuss any emails previously sent that are not on the agenda already. None Presented.

III. New Business: To hear and act upon:

A. Ted Hios- 166 Palamar Drive – Request to have a Memorial Bench in honor of Kevin Kuczo installed at Highwood Park in honor of Kevin Kuczo who grew up in this neighborhood and passed away on February 4th.

Motion: B. Rotelli made a motion to approve, seconded by C. McCoy.

Vote: Unanimous

B. Brenda Anziano and Molly Farrell – Request to have a Memorial Bench installed at Jennings Park in honor of Tom Quinn. Ms. Anziano explained that Mr. Quinn was involved in the renovations at three schools in Fairfield and recently passed away in the middle of the Mill Hill School renovations. A. Calabrese added that there was space there for the bench.

Motion: C. McCoy made a motion to approve the motion, seconded by B. Rotelli.

Vote: Unanimous

C. Lisa Frillici Friedrichs – 84 Woody Lane. Request to have a plaque placed at YYY on an existing bench in honor of her father, Tom Frillici.

Motion: Margaret Horton Weeks made a motion to approve the motion, seconded by B. McBride.

Vote: Unanimous

D. Jonathan Sabin – 1330 Mill Hill Terrace, Southport, CT. – Request to have a Memorial Bench placed at South Benson Marina in honor of his grandmother, Mary Ryan, who passed away in March. The Marina was her happy place and it would mean so much to have a bench placed there for her. He stated that he had been in touch with the Marina Manager and that there was a space available between H and I dock.

Motion: C. McCoy made a motion to approve the motion, seconded by B. Rotelli.

Vote: Unanimous

E. Aryan Maheshwari, 27 Mona Terrace – explained that he is a member of Boy Scout Troop 82 in Fairfield and is a fitness enthusiast and would like to see more fitness centers outside. He feels that this project would benefit the whole community. The suggested an ideal location would be at Veres Park, opposite the softball field, near the playground. He planned to use pressure treated wood or whatever materials the Department of Public Works would recommend. The structure would be low maintenance. B. Nerreau referred to the mulch that was shown on the design and stated his concern that if someone fell off, we would want it to be a fairly soft landing. B. Nerreau asked A. Calabrese if DPW would be involved to make sure the station was structurally sound and properly footed, and that acceptable flooring, similar to other existing parks, was used. A. Calabrese confirmed the DPW would work closely with them on this project. B. Nerreau stated that there seemed to be a lot of chin up bars on the picture of the proposed station and asked what other types of exercise the structure would be used for. A. Maheshwari explained the different types of exercises that the apparatus can be used for and also stated that there would be pictures to show how to properly do the various exercises. A. Calabrese confirmed that this would be on the opposite side of the softball field near the playground space and that there is plenty of room there. M. Weeks asked if there would be a cost involved for the ongoing upkeep and inquired about the liability of the town if someone were to get injured on the structure. A. Maheshwari stated that they were fundraising to cover the initial cost of the project and that it was a low liability project. B. Nerreau stated that once something is constructed on Town property, the town owns the structure and the Town would be responsible from a liability point of view.

Motion: C. McCoy moved to make a motion to approve. B. McBride seconded.

Vote: Unanimous

F. Steven Robifker, 1200 Fairfield Woods Road, who currently serves as VP Health and Technology for the Congregation Beth El, explained that for the past 14 years, with the exception of last year due to Covid, Congregation Beth El has held Friday evening services during the summer months on the East End of Jennings Beach. S. Robifker is requesting that the services be reinstated for this summer, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. weather permitting from May 28th through September 3rd. S. Robifker stated that the vast majority of the congregants attending are from Fairfield, however there are some from surrounding towns. During previous years, they were given permission for these attendees to park at the Marina. They would limit the number of guests passes to no more than 25. B. Nerreau asked if the requested 25 passes were similar to prior years and asked A. Calabrese if the services would conflict with the bonfires. A. Calabrese stated that he was not sure of the number but that there was no issue with them parking at the Marina and that the services would not interfere with the bonfires.

Motion: B. Rotelli moved to make a motion to approve. C. McCoy seconded.

Vote: Unanimous

G. Jose Manuel Pabon Sanchez – Request to have a live musical performance on the Sherman Green on Tuesday, June 1, 2021. – J. Sanchez did not appear on the teleconference. B. Nerreau stated he did not feel comfortable moving forward without Mr. Sanchez being present and he would have to come before the Commission in the future with his proposal.

V. To hear and act upon information in Reports:

A. Tree Sub Committee Report: B. McBride stated that she and C. McCoy met in April and that they only have two remaining months to fill for the Tree of Hope. August will be sponsored by the Pediatric Hydrocephalus Foundation, recommended by a local family whose daughter has the disease. They have done fundraising in town and are the head of the

Connecticut chapter as well. This has been approved on the sub-committee level. For the month of October, Chris had identified the Fairfield Youth Rugby, Fairfield High School Rugby and Women's Rugby group and had given them the information to reach out to Kelly Brown, but that have not done so yet. C. McCoy was going to reach out to them again. B. McBride said that later this summer they will start reviewing the calendar for 2022 and see if they have any early applications for the upcoming year.

B. Board of Education Report:

B. Rotelli advised there would be a ruling next Tuesday to vote on the budget adjustments. They have received new guidelines regarding masks – there will be none required for outdoors, gym and recess and that they are awaiting guidelines on activities. High School graduations will be at the beach again. There will be three separate dates for the middle schools and they were still finalizing plans for proms. A. Calabrese stated that the proms will both be held on their campuses. Ludlowe will be under a tent on the front lawn and Warde will be in the courtyard. There will be no sit down dinner. It will be grab and go. B. McBride asked when the no masks for outside goes into effect. B. Rotelli stated that this would happen immediately.

B. Director's Report:

I'm excited to announce as of today the Governor has significantly lifted his COVID restrictions. This essentially enables us to program as we did pre-pandemic!

Here are some Department highlights as we head into the summer season. This past Friday we held a wildly successful event called Glow on the Green at our brand new H. Smith Richardson golf course clubhouse. This was a glow in the dark hole-in-one contest. While no one sunk a hole-in-one to win the \$10,000 cash prize, we did have over 225 people come out to enjoy the event. This Friday we have revived our longstanding Beach Fest at Lake Mohegan. This event will raise funds for our Jacky Durrell Scholarship fund and will feature six high school-aged bands.

Our summer concert series kicks off this Sunday at the Sherman Green with the Jim Royle Drum Studio. We have the usual lineup of 38 concerts scheduled to take place through September 4th. Our summer Comedy Series is back at Penfield Pavilion with the first show of the season taking place on Thursday, May 27th. Our Peanut Butter Jam Concerts and our Sand Jam Movie Nights will kick off in June.

Our annual Farmer's Market is jammed packed with vendors and is scheduled to run on Sundays beginning June 13th through October 3rd. The market will be on the Sherman Green from 10:00am – 2:00pm each Sunday.

The First Selectwoman announced in her most recent newsletter that we will be hosting our annual Memorial Day Parade on May 31st and that we will also be hosting our annual Fireworks show on July 3rd!

Budget season has concluded with the RTM voting to approve the Town's overall budget with slight modifications. I'm happy to say that nothing was cut from the Parks and Recreation budget. The Board of Finance also voted to allocate \$150,000 from the FY21 surplus to our Department to fund our Parks and Recreation Master Plan. I will be in touch with this commission as we embark on this plan. Our goal is to layout the next 10 years' worth of capital projects and identify other opportunities to expand our facilities.

As always, I have to publicly thank my staff for the amazing job they have been doing! Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Anthony R. Calabrese, MS, CPRP

Director of Parks and Recreation
Town of Fairfield

www.fairfieldrecreation.com
(203) 256-3191
ACalabrese@fairfieldct.org

IV. Good of the Order None

ADJOURNMENT: B. Nerreau stated with no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelly J. Brown, Recording Secretary
youtube.com/watch?v=XaE6nJ3e7n4