

**TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes of September 16, 2020**

A tele-conference meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the Town of Fairfield was held on Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via teleconference.

PRESENT: Scott Walker, Chairman; Brian Nerreau, Jamie Benton, Bridget McBride, Mary Von Conta, Jessica Gerber, Chris McCoy, David Weber and Dylan O'Connor.

ABSENT: None

ALSO: Anthony Calabrese, Dir. Parks & Recreation

Chairman Scott Walker called meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He asked the members to identify themselves when speaking and voting.

I. ACT ON MINUTES OF: August 19, 2020 – Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved as written.

II. PUBLIC INPUT: Will address at the time of the issue.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Gary Kopsco/Kenneth Kopsco – Request for a Memorial Bench in honor of their mother at Perry's Green/South Benson Marina.

Mr. Gary Kopsco asked the Commission for permission to have a Memorial Bench installed at Perry's Green due to the fact that his original placement at South Benson Marina was not available. S. Walker asked whether there were any restrictions to what could be placed there. M. Von Conta indicated that the land was given to the Town of Fairfield many years ago and that someone would need to check the deed of gift for specific restrictions. A. Calabrese said he would follow up with the Town Clerk and if the deed had restrictions, an alternate location of Ye Yacht Yard would be available. S. Walker indicated that this was a straight forward request and they just needed to check the deed restriction. M. Von Conta stated that one of the benches was in need of being repaired or replaced and they would need to see if there was any information in the deed regarding replacement and still having three benches there. M. Von Conta made a motion to approve after the deed of gift had been read and determined and J. Gerber seconded.

Vote: 8-0. (B. Nerreau, M. Von Conta, J. Gerber, D. Weber, C. McCoy, B. McBride, J. Benton and Dylan O'Connor in favor. Motion passed and approved.

J. Benton asked that if the deed would not allow putting another bench at Perry's Green, would the Commission want to approve a secondary site without Mr. Kopsco having to come back or is the approval site specific? S. Walker asked Mr. Kopsco if Perry's Green was not available would a secondary site of Ye Yacht Yard be agreeable. Mr. Kopsco indicated that this location would be fine as well. A motion to reconsider the bench approval was made by Mary VonConta and seconded by Jaime Benton. Motion to reconsider approved unanimously. Motion was then before the assembly as stated prior to approval. J. Benton made a motion to amend the motion to include Ye Yacht Yard if Perry's Green was not available. M. Von Conta seconded.

Vote: 8-0. (B. Nerreau, M. Von Conta, J. Gerber, D. Weber, C. McCoy, B. McBride, J. Benton and Dylan O'Connor in favor. Motion to amend the motion was passed.

S. Walker asked if there was any further discussion on the amended motion and called for a vote on the amended motion.

Vote: 8-0. (B. Nerreau, M. Von Conta, J. Gerber, D. Weber, C. McCoy, B. McBride, J. Benton and Dylan O'Connor in favor. The amended motion was passed and approved.

V. To hear and act upon information in Reports:

A. Board of Education Report:

J. Gerber stated that school started on September 8th and there are students attending in the buildings as well as remote learning. High School and Middle School students have two different cohorts and go on different days, while all students are remote on Wednesdays. Elementary students have two cohorts as well, AM and PM and go a half day in school and a half day remotely five days a week for continuity. Overall, after one week, things were going well. They are reviewing the costs associated with this plan regarding PPE and transportation. With going remote last spring, there were some cost savings and a non lapsing fund was set up to cover at least some of the expenses they will be incurring. The possibility of five days a week for those who choose will be discussed at next week's BOE meeting.

B. To hear and act upon Tree Committee Report

J. Gerber reported that the Tree Committee has set up a calendar for the upcoming year based on the submissions received. At the present time, February and August of 2021 were still open and if a group wanted to sponsor either of those months, they would bring them before the Commission for approval.

S. Walker asked if there was a motion to approve the calendar as presented. M. Von Conta made a motion to approve and J. Benton seconded.

M. Von Conta asked how the information regarding the calendar gets published. J. Gerber stated that she had sent a press release out to the Patch and Fairfield Citizen News who have indicated that they may be doing follow up pieces which will generate additional interest, along with asking the Parks and Recreation department to add it to their social media sites. S. Walker asked to take a vote to approve the calendar.

Vote: 8-0. (B. Nerreau, M. Von Conta, J. Gerber, D. Weber, C. McCoy, B. McBride, J. Benton and Dylan O'Connor in favor. Motion passed and the calendar approved.

C. Director's Report:

Mr. Calabrese presented a written report which is summarized below:

It seems the weather has changed and the autumn season is upon us. The Parks and Recreation Department is in full swing as far as our fall programming goes. Many of our youth and adult programs have kicked off taking place at Penfield Pavilion. These programs include children's yoga, adult yoga, art strokes, and language classes. Our fall youth soccer program is also taking place throughout Town. The registration numbers for youth soccer are down significantly this season, primarily due to Covid concerns.

We are currently working with our Emergency Management Team to discuss fall and winter special events. It is our hope that some of our beloved historical community events will be able to take place in some modified fashion. Our plan would be to start advertising these events in the near future if given the green light to do so.

An update on the two projects that I mentioned last month. The Town administration had a very productive meeting with residents of Hillcrest Rd which abuts the Tomlinson Middle School tennis courts. The tree work should begin next week with the actual tennis court construction beginning shortly after that. Our second project was the installation of the 8 ft fencing surrounding the Jennings Beach skate park. This work has been successfully completed as of yesterday.

As always, I'd like to publicly thank my staff for the tremendous job they have done adjusting to the unknowns of Covid in these trying times.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

ADJOURNMENT: S. Walker stated with no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelly J. Brown, Recording Secretary
Tele-meeting location for audio:
youtube.com/watch?v=aOruQzc2CBg