

Wallingford Parks and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes January 6, 2010

Recreation Commission Members Present:

Roz Gallagher, Dave Gelo, Linda Mercuri

Recreation Department Staff Present:

Director of Recreation John Gawlak

Recording Secretary: Jennifer Griswold

Opening Remarks:

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m.

Minutes:

Dave Gelo asked for a motion to approve the December meeting minutes as is. Linda Mercuri made the motion which was seconded by Roz Gallagher.

Old/Current Business:

John Gawlak passed out copies of the Director's Report. He stated that budget preparation for Fiscal Year 2010-11 would begin in the upcoming week and that the letter from the Mayor is expected to arrive around the same time.

Director's Report: John Gawlak (refer to copy attached) additional comments:

1. Year End Report: John is in the process of wrapping up the report for 2009 and will have it for presentation at the February meeting.
2. Disc Golf: John commented that it is not likely to appear in the budget, but that resident Jason Michael is never-the-less interested in pursuing the possibility of developing a disc golf course in town. Linda Mercuri will contact Mr. Michael to arrange for him to make his presentation to the Commission and discuss other possible avenues of funding.
3. Skate Park: John presented the newly revised Skate Park Plaza design proposal and discussed the benefits of the change in design with regard to structure, sound, and improved durability. He stated that the proponents of the park are still very interested in Garden Road as a site and would like to make another presentation to Mayor Dickinson. Plans for alternative funding will need to be discussed.
4. Tyler Mill Open Space: Copies of the fax sent by Diane Saunders were distributed, containing details of the continued problems at the Tyler Mill Open Space with illegal dumping and hunting.
5. Car Top Boat Launch: The available grant money from Mark Cummings representing the USDA office located in Wallingford will be enough to provide two Quinnipiac River boat launches. John displayed a map of the Fireworks Island property off of Route 150 and explained that he had visited the site with John Thompson from the Engineering Department, Mr. Cummings and Roman Mudzinski from the SWCD earlier that day. The boat launch projects should begin as soon as possible once local permits are obtained and there is another meeting with the Mayor.
6. Commission Member replacement: There has been no word on a replacement.
7. Parking lot at Pragemann Park: The necessary permit from the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health has been approved and work will move forward hopefully this spring with cooperation from the Engineering Department as well as the Public Works Department.
8. Emily Swindelles: John handed out copies of Emily's report for review and commented on how pleased he is with Emily's job performance to date.

New Business:

Roz Gallagher asked if the Community Pool was slated for painting this spring. John responded that no discussion has taken place as yet on the subject.

Dave Gelo stated that he is looking into vendor information for the signage at Harrison Park; and hopes that signs will be ready for spring installation.

Linda Mercuri explained that she and Michelle Bjorkman are working on a plan to promote Friends of Parks and Recreation; a program that will encourage donations from the public for park improvement projects. A brief discussion ensued and it was agreed that an inventory of the parks to determine what may be needed and where would be helpful.

Next Meeting:

The next Recreation Commission meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, February 3, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. at the Recreation Department, 6 Fairfield Blvd., Wallingford, CT.

Motion to Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made by Dave Gelo and seconded by Linda Mercuri. The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Griswold, recording secretary