

**NEWINGTON PARKS & RECREATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2008
MEETING MINUTES**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Jeff Hedberg, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Board: Jeff Hedberg, Jonathan Boni, Bill DeBlasio (arrived at 7:20 PM), Eileen Francolino, Robert Tofeldt, Mary Udice, John Kennedy, Kenneth Leggo, Don Woods
Board Members Excused: A. Neal Forte
Board Members Absent: Jeff Perillo
Staff: Acting Superintendent Dennis Bonitsky, Recreation Supervisors Ted Fravel and Alison Alberghini
Town Council Liaison: Jay Bottalico

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 9, 2008

Mary Udice commented that in the Roll Call it looked like she arrived at 7:45 PM and she wanted to make it clear that she was at the meeting from the beginning. The way the Roll Call is listed has the arrival time next to that specific person's name and if the arrival time is other than the beginning of the meeting that time is noted next to the specific person's name. **MOTION: Eileen Francolino made a motion to approve the minutes of April 9, 2008, Mary Udice seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion to approve the minutes of April 9, 2008 was unanimously approved with a 8-0 vote.**

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no Public Participation.

V. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS/REPORT

A. FROM THE ACTING SUPERINTENDENT

Dennis Bonitsky indicated that the Board will notice in their monthly reports a lot of overtime for Parks and Grounds employees. This is due to bad weather, starting dates of games, trying to get the fields ready, etc. – there are 48 fields in Newington. There was criticism last year regarding the little league and sports fields, and overtime was spent getting these fields ready. Jeff asked what it would take to get Badger Field back on-line. Dennis responded that it needs to be resod, regraded, get the infield back to a little league field, and although this wouldn't be a great deal of cost, it is hours and labor time. He said Badger Field has the best drainage of all the fields. Little League plans on removing the building and the scoreboard at Badger Field. Comments were made to Dennis about a hole on the north side of the field at Clem Lemire, and a big puddle at Memorial.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. MASTER PLAN – APPOINT SUBCOMMITTEE TO ESTABLISH PRIORITIES

Jeff asked that this Agenda item be tabled until after the Extravaganza. The Board was in agreement.

B. SYNTHETIC TURF FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE

John Kennedy reported that the subcommittee met with two different vendors: ProGrass and Field Turf. He distributed informational material about both companies. He indicated that both companies were asked many questions regarding health issues, injuries, past projects; the subcommittee covered every possible question. He had a proposal from ProGrass on a complete site survey at a cost of \$15,000. This is not to say that ProGrass would be the company to install the synthetic turf, only that they would prepare the site survey. The site survey would include layout options, parking for at least 500 cars, a lined football/lacrosse/soccer field, level the hill, male/female bathrooms, bleachers, and drainage issues. This process could take seven to eight months, and once approval is received, the installation of the synthetic turf would take eight to ten weeks.

There was discussion on requests for proposals, laws regarding the lowest bidder, meeting with other vendors. Dennis will research the issue on the lowest bidder. Dennis also felt that the information provided in the letter from ProGrass that John read would be sufficient information for a request for proposal.

The Synthetic Turf Field Study Committee will meet with vendors and ask the top two candidates to meet with the entire Board.

C. EXTRAVAGANZA SUBCOMMITTEE

The Extravaganza SubCommittee will meet on Tuesday, May 20th at 6:30 PM in Jeff Hedberg's office. Jeff asked Ted to finalize the contracts for the vendors. Don stated that Mortensen's needs to be contacted regarding the other ice cream vendor. Bob showed everyone the banner that lists the weeklong events. This sign will be placed on the outside wall of the Parks and Recreation building. Channel 14 will be filming an Extravaganza "commercial" interviewing Jeff and showing the banner. Mary also suggested having the banner in the Memorial Day Parade. Bob had tickets for Tirebiter and Board members took tickets to sell. There was discussion on the issue of checking IDs at the gate since the Tirebiter event is for 21 years of age and older. John Kennedy stated he would work the gate, and a police officer would also be in attendance. An area for people under 21 years of age will be designated.

D. GOLF TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

The Golf Tournament was scheduled for Monday, May 12th and was postponed due to inclement weather. The postponement had to take place on Friday, May 9th because the restaurant at the club needed that timeframe. The Golf Tournament has been rescheduled for Monday, May 19th. Ted stated that a profit of at least \$8,000 is projected to be made.

E. APPROVE PROPOSAL FOR USE OF CHURCHILL POOL BY AL DODSON

Ted reported that last year's agreement was approved by the Town Attorney. This agreement was reviewed and amended to include that Parks and Recreation will take 10% of the fees, safety issues and emergency situations have been addressed, a subsidy program for Newington children who want to attend this camp will be offered. **MOTION: Mary Udice made a motion to accept the proposal for use of Churchill Pool by Al Dodson as amended, Bill DeBlasio seconded the motion, and the motion passed with a 9-0 vote.**

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. GOLF TOURNAMENT UPDATE/REPORT

This was discussed under Old Business.

B. RELAY FOR LIFE/MILL POND PARK

Dennis reported that the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life will take place at Mill Pond Park on May 30th and 31st. This is a 24 hour event and people camp out over night and use the pathway as the relay site.

Jonathan Boni stated that he was concerned that the Board has no information about Superintendent Wendy Rubin and whether she will be returning to this position. There was a suggestion at the April meeting to ask Town Manager John Salomone to come to the meeting to discuss this issue. Dennis went to see if Mr. Salomone was in the building and he was not. Jeff stated that the Board should have some sort of report as to Wendy's status, knowing that there are personnel issues that can't be discussed, but at least some information to report. Jeff will contact the Town Manager and will update the Board as soon as he learns anything.

Don asked about the CIP budget. Jeff indicated that monies will probably be shifted accordingly. Don stated that a customer asked him about the dog park and if it was possible to have citizens raise money for this dog park.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: John Kennedy made a motion to adjourn, Mary Udice seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion to adjourn was unanimously approved at 8:55 PM with a 9-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Whitney
Secretary to the Board