

**NEWINGTON PARKS & RECREATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TUESDAY, January 19, 2016**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Beth Manke called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

II. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Eileen Francolino, Mary Udice, Ed Marchion, Jen Crowley, Beth Manke, Mary Beth Kelliher, James Cultrera, Sarah Jorgensen

Board Members Absent: Don Woods, Bill DeBlasio, Sue Reniewicz

Staff Present: Superintendent William DeMaio

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF December 8, 2015

Mary Udice made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2015 meeting. Eileen Francolino seconded the motion. The motion passed with an 8-0 vote.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None

MOTION: A motion was made by Eileen Francolino to accept the addition of new business item #6 to the agenda. Mary Udice seconded the motion; all were in favor with an 8-0 vote.

V. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS

From the Superintendent, Bill DeMaio:

Eileen Francolino mentioned that there was deck reconstruction work going on at Churchill Pool diving board forms have been removed, what are they looking for under the forms?

Superintendent DeMaio responded: The pool has been leaking 20,000 gallons of water per day during the summer season. The diving board forms were removed and 12 more holes were found in the pipes, also in the process of digging up the concrete slabs. About 12 pipes have been fixed so far. The pipes are old steel pipes; they are corroding pipes causing scaling and punctures. The plan now is to wait for warmer spring weather and have a company re-concrete the deck. Trying very best to keep pool open but it is becoming very hard to do. The pool is in a serious state of decomposition and it is fearful the pool walls could collapse. If Churchill Pool cannot be open this season it is possible to use High School pool for summer activities, but not good for picnickers that rent the pavilions. Churchill has out lived life expectancy. Superintendent DeMaio will keep trying to fix holes and hope that will fix the situation temporarily and believes it is worth trying.

Sarah Jorgensen showed concern regarding the walls caving in and mentioned that it is not worth keeping pool open. Superintendent DeMaio responded: he would like an engineer to come and assess the situation before closing the pool.

Mary Beth Kelliher inquired as to have a time line set to make decision of whether or not to open pool this year. Superintendent DeMaio responded: a decision can be made up to last minute and will continue working on the pool up to the time it opens.

MOTION: A motion was made by James Cultrera to accept the November and December Reports. Ed Marchion seconded the motion; all were in favor with an 8-0 vote.

VI. MUNIS REPORT

A report summarizing the Grounds Year to Date Budget giving a snapshot of today's funding of the department was included in the agenda packet.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

NONE

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Beaver at Mill Pond Park

Beaver problem around Mill Pond Park was brought to Superintendent DeMaio's attention by a resident who lives in the area and is concerned that his basement will become flooded. There is a significant beaver dam that has been made by about 14 trees that have come down around walking path. This is now becoming a public safety issue. Superintendent DeMaio has talked to the DEEP about this problem. Beavers are nuisance animal and cannot be relocated to other towns. There are companies that will come out and trap the beavers for \$1,000 and \$200 per beaver and Superintendent DeMaio has also found a man from Glastonbury that will trap the beavers for free if he can keep them. Superintendent DeMaio has informed the leadership of town about this matter.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mary Beth Kelliher to authorize the Superintendent to arrange for a trapper to eliminate the problem according to DEEP regulations. Ed Marchion seconded the motion; with a 6-2 vote. In favor of the motion: Jen Crowley, Eileen Francolino, Mary Beth Kelliher, Ed Marchion, James Cultrera, Beth Manke. Opposed of motion: Mary Udice and Sarah Jorgensen

HE Energy Solutions

Home Energy Solutions is going to sponsor the Extravaganza Fireworks by donating \$50.00 for every person that signs on for an energy assessment to done to their home using the promo code fireworks when registering. The energy assessment is \$99.00 it is not limited to Newington Residents. Information about this program will be posted on the Parks and Recreation Facebook page and flyers will be distributed at other local events by Board members.

MOTION: A motion was made by Eileen Francolino to accept the proposal from Home Energy Solutions for a \$50.00 rebate to the town for every person that uses their service using the fireworks code. Jen Crowley seconded the motion; all were in favor with an 8-0 vote.

Wave Car Wash Agreement

Ed Steremberg of Wave Car Wash in Newington has offered to sponsor the Fireworks by selling the \$12.75 car wash to the public for \$11.00 and donating \$4.50 for every car wash to the fireworks and the \$10.50 car wash will sell to the public for \$9.50 and Wave Car Wash will donate \$4.25 for each of the those car washes sold, to the fireworks as long as the public, when purchasing the car wash uses the code 71616. This promotion is effective immediately until September 1, 2016.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mary Udice to accept the proposal by Wave Car Wash for the promotion that is to begin immediately and expire on September 1, 2016 using code 71616. Sarah Jorgensen seconded the motion; all were in favor with an 8-0 vote.

Extravaganza Soccer Shoot Out

Superintendent DeMaio is working on putting a package together for a soccer shoot out contest to be held during the Extravaganza. He is looking to get a company to donate a pickup truck for this event. Tickets will be sold one (1) for \$10.00 and three (3) for \$15.00. Three names will be drawn on the day of the Extravaganza to have a chance to kick a soccer ball from 40 yards away into the back of the truck. If the soccer ball stays in the bed of the truck the contestant will win \$30,000 or the truck depending on the sponsor's involvement. The cost for this contest is approximately \$4,000.00. Superintendent DeMaio has proposed this idea to the Newington Soccer Club Coordinators and asked them to assist in selling tickets for this contest, the Parks and Recreation Department would in turn give the soccer club \$1.00 for every ticket sold which would be like a fundraiser for them as well. The Soccer club will be in touch with Superintendent DeMaio in regards to assisting with the ticket sales. Superintendent DeMaio is actively looking for three sponsors for this event, a financial institution, an insurance company that will hopefully cover the cost of the insurance policy and a truck company. Superintendent DeMaio is in the process of putting a letter together to send out to 15 to 20 companies asking to put up \$1,500.00 minimum as one of three sponsors or sponsor the whole event for \$4,000.00. The company or companies that help sponsor this event will get a lot of advertising. Ticket sales will start months in advance to try to cover the cost of the event and the extra proceeds will go to fireworks display. If there is not a winner out of the three contestants that are chosen, Superintendent DeMaio will sell more tickets at the Extravaganza for \$3.00 each and let more people try, if someone makes that shot Superintendent DeMaio will award them with a \$100 gift card to Parks and Recreation. James Cultrera asked if someone makes the shot the insurance company will pay the \$30,000 prize, Superintendent DeMaio confirmed yes.

MOTION: A motion was made by James Cultrera to accept the proposal for the soccer shoot out event at the Extravaganza to raise additional funds for the fireworks display. Jen Crowley seconded the motion; all were in favor with an 8-0 vote

Re/Max Hot Air Balloon Approval

The Re/Max Company in Newington is willing to bring a hot air balloon the Friday night before the Extravaganza and offer tethered rides at \$10.00 per person, 3 to 4 people per ride, all proceeds go towards the fireworks display. There is no charge to the Parks and Recreation Department. New England Re/max has approved this. Mary Udice showed concern that this event was to happen in the past and they did not show up, what happens if they do not show up this year? Superintendent DeMaio responded to Mary Udice's concern and mentioned that this event is weather pending tickets would have to be sold the day of event.

MOTION: A motion was made by Eileen Francolino to accept the proposal for the Re/Max Company to bring their hot air balloon and provide \$10.00 tethered rides on the Friday night from 6 – 8 pm before the Extravaganza, weather permitting. Mary Udice seconded the motion; all were in favor with an 8-0 vote

Waive Rental Fee for NHS project Graduation Zumba Fundraiser at MCC Gymnasium

Letter from Sharon O'Neil requesting to waive the \$30.00 rental fee for the MCC gymnasium. Mary Woods, Newington's Zumba instructor would like to hold a fundraiser in the spring to help raise money for NHS Project Graduation. Superintendent DeMaio mentioned it would not cost any additional money to keep the gym open because there will be a supervisor in the Community Center for activities going on in Arts & Craft and Multipurpose Rooms.

MOTION: A motion was made by Ed Marchion to waive \$30.00 rental fee for the gymnasium for the NHS Zumba fundraiser. Sarah Jorgensen seconded the motion; all were in favor with an 8-0 vote.

IX. Reports

Meet the Mayor TV Show

Superintendent DeMaio had the opportunity to do the show with the Mayor and Steve Parker. He mentioned it was good, a lot of fun.

Goal Setting Meeting for the Council

The goal setting meeting was held Saturday. The council listened to department heads of Parks and Recreation Department.

Basketball Program Update

There are 700 plus kids are involved in this program. Superintendent DeMaio mentioned that it is a really impressive program. The staff is incredible with the kids. Karen Gallicchio coordinates this program. Superintendent DeMaio mentioned that it is a monumental task for one person and complimented Ms. Gallicchio on a job well done. Games are held on Saturdays. Recently photographers were there to take photos of the players. Mary Beth Kelliher commended all the High School Volunteers that participate in the Basketball program on all their hard work and how well they work with the younger kids. Superintendent DeMaio spoke about having a pizza party for them at the end of the season and make sure they are recognized for their hard work.

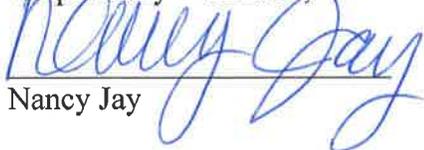
X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: A motion was made by Mary Beth Kelliher to adjourn. Sarah Jorgensen seconded the motion, all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm with an 8-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,


Nancy Jay