

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Beth Manke, Eileen Francolino, Mary Udice, Bill DeBlasio, Jen Crowley, Ed Marchion, Mary Beth Kelliher, James Cultrera, Don Woods

Board Members Absent: Sue Reniewicz

Staff Present: Superintendent William DeMaio

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF May 17, 2016

Don Woods made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2016 meeting. Bill DeBlasio seconded the motion. Don Woods opposed the motion. The motion passed with a 9-0 vote.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None

V. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS

From the Superintendent, Bill DeMaio:

Correspondence is reviewed in New Business section.

VI. SUMMARY REPORT

Monthly Report - May & June 2016

Eileen Francolino asked about the status of the Cemetery.

Superintendent DeMaio responded: Parks and Recreation Board are not in charge of the Cemetery. However, things are going well. A few local residents have baked goods for the staff at the Cemetery. Superintendent DeMaio has recently become aware of a rule set by the State General Assembly, House of Representatives, in 2009 a proclamation stating that local cemeteries cannot supersede their rule of not allowing the display of a military flag or the American flag on grave site. The Council will need to be informed of this rule. The Cemetery is looking good and staff is making a shelving unit to leave family items for pick up.

Tree Warden Report

Dead trees and tree branches removed around town, Parks Ground staff worked with Wethersfield Tree Crew addressing hanging branches and dead trees at Churchill Park, they were removed to make those areas safe.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

NONE

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Golf Fund Authorization:

Superintendent DeMaio is working with Ann and Tanya to make an expenditure out of the golf fund. There is approximately \$50,000 to work with in the fund. In the past, Superintendent DeMaio used money from the Golf Fund, which was reimbursed by donations, to start new events that would normally have to be planned a year in advance using the Recreation Enterprise Budget. Ann thinks it is better to use the Recreation Enterprise Budget, and also any money taken from the Golf Fund should be authorized by the Parks and Recreation Board Members. Superintendent DeMaio has a written resolution to present to the Parks and Recreation Board Members next month.

MOTION: A motion was made by Eileen Francolino to table the discussion on the Golf Fund Authorization until the resolution. Jen Crowley seconded the motion; all were in favor with a 9-0 vote.

Letter-boxing in open space:

Town Planner, Craig Minor was recently approached by a local resident that was interested in letter-boxing aka geo-caching in the Town's open spaces. This information was shared with Superintendent DeMaio via email. Superintendent DeMaio would like a broader definition of the term "open spaces" in order to know the boundaries in which these boxes will be placed to keep public disruption to a minimum.

July is Recreation and Parks Month Resolution

Councilman Manke brought it to the last Town Council meeting, July has been designated as Recreation and Parks Month, take time to enjoy the Town of Newington Parks and Recreation programs or just enjoy time at your favorite town park with family and friends.

IX. Reports

Mill Pond Playground Update

The playground is close to completion. The drainage and surfacing is done. Fifty five new equipment identification stickers have been ordered to be placed on the equipment and should be here in a few weeks. The Sensory Garden was revitalized by Gold Star Girl Scout, Carly McCarthy, and friends of EJ Becan. She will be recognized for her work at the ADA Anniversary Celebration Concert.

Motorcycle Madness

It was a very successful event. There were 450 motorcycles at the event. John Haymond came to the event to meet Superintendent DeMaio, he was very impressed by the event having such a big turnout for a first time event. Motorcycle Madness made over \$3,000 in profits. Haymond Law sent out over 35,000 promotional emails for this event.

New Jingle

Everyone likes the jingle, very catchy. Camp kids are learning the jingle for a recording.

The Crazy Concert Cookie Give-a-way

The Cookie Give-a-way is going great. Jefferson House made a donation for cookies sponsoring last concert in the series.

Pool Update

Pools are doing well. Not losing as much water, nothing that cannot be refilled and handled.

Churchill Park Update

Congressman John Larson is going to put Superintendent DeMaio in contact with his grant writer in Washington, D.C. to see if they can get some grants for the Churchill Park Project.

Extravaganza Update

Chairwoman Manke thanked Superintendent DeMaio for bringing new life and energy to the Parks and Recreation Department, the Extravaganza was amazing and very positive for the town. Superintendent DeMaio mentioned everyone worked very hard and did a wonderful job. Some employees worked overtime. The beer tasting was excellent, the entertainment was well received, and fireworks were great. Still waiting for final figures, the beer garden brought \$3,000 - \$4,000 more than last year, saved money on the stage rental and labor costs. A profit seems favorable this year.

Chairwoman Manke suggested a better check point method for ID's next year and a bigger area for beer garden, overall working at the Extravaganza was a lot of fun.

Mary Udice suggested the music go from 6-9 on Friday.

Superintendent DeMaio agreed with Mary Udice.

Don Woods suggested a sign for ticket booth with a clear explanation for the cost of daily tickets and wristbands.

Newington Youth Lacrosse donated \$500 to the fireworks.

Superintendent DeMaio has personally called each and every one of the donors that donated over \$500 for fireworks. Formal Thank you letters are to follow.

One more thing

- The Parks and Recreation August meeting has been cancelled.

MOTION: A motion was made by Don Woods to cancel the August meeting. Ed Marchion seconded the motion, all were in favor with a 9-0 vote.

- Eileen would like to recognize the Police Department at one of the next concerts in effort to build a strong community. Superintendent DeMaio thinks it's a good idea he will speak to Town Manager. Mary Beth Kelliher suggested that possibly at a future event next summer. Don Woods suggested the kids sing the new jingle to the police department, have it recorded and delivered to them.
- Councilman Manke had the Boys Scouts Troop 347 sleep over night at the Extravaganza to help with set up.
- Chris Minor owns a bunch of cool equipment, donated a large light to the beer garden at the Extravaganza

- Bill DeBlasio offered his thanks to everyone that helped with the USA - Cuba Goodwill Baseball Game and allowing them to go swimming at Churchill Pool. The game was hosted at Clem Lemiere field with 400 people in attendance. The kids got some really cool gifts to bring back to Cuba and Bill DeBlasio's dentist donated a bag with a toothbrush, toothpaste and dental floss for each player. The Newington Music Company studied and learned the Cuban National Anthem and played that at the game. Bill DeBlasio said the field looked great and thanked the staff and crew for all their hard work.
- An idea Superintendent DeMaio would like to implement to the Board Members is to honor an individual, a civic group or business that has been instrumental in serving the residents of Newington. He would like to do a write up on them, honor them at the Town Council level, meet with the Mayor and have a social hour before that meeting to recognize them in the community. Superintendent DeMaio would like to do this in November or December.

X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

NONE

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: A motion was made by Mary Udice to adjourn. Ed Marchion seconded the motion, all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm with a 9-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Jay