

**NEWINGTON PARKS & RECREATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
TUESDAY, September 18, 2012**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Don Woods called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Board: Mary Udice, Kathy Zolad, Bill DeBlasio, Ed Marchion, Richard Khentigan, Jim Marocchini, Don Woods, Robert Fresen, Eileen Francolino, Jeff Perillo

Board Members Absent: Jen Win-Johnson

Staff: Superintendent Bruce Till

Town Staff: Karen Gallicchio, Stephanie Boulay

**III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF June 19, 2012**

**James Marocchini made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2012 meeting. Bill DeBlasio seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 10-0 vote.**

**IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive.** She would like to see the Parks & Recreation Agenda posted on the website. Thank you to the Parks & Recreation Department for mowing the lawn pathway between the Senior Center and Elton and Farmstead Road. The Pathway used for the safe route to school still needs attention, any improvements would be greatly appreciated. She would also like to see the brook cleaned up.

**V. MONTHLY REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS**

Monthly Report FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Poured in place at mill pond still waiting to hear if we will get the grant.

Bruce Till mentioned that Stephanie is leaving her position with the Town of Newington.

**Highlights and improvements in the park department.**

Candlewyck Park: tree work and brush have been cleared. Improvements made to playscape, added some wood fiber mulch, sprayed poison ivy. Total clean up for park should be complete by the end of the month. Playscape might not be finished.

Churchill Park: Working on tennis courts, in-house was not contracted out. Also working on sand volleyball courts, a few tons of sand was added still need new net. A lot of clean up has also been done.

Clem Lemire: paving the parking lot should be done soon. Landscaping will be done as soon as paving is finished. Facility looks nice, planning on putting a spiderman playscape and fencing around the play area.

Parks and Recreation Department has encountered staff shortage over the summer due to injuries, sick and vacation time. Mike is retiring. In the process of negotiating with the union regarding management rights and being productive. It is very challenging to complete projects

with minimal staff, Bruce Till has recommended to the Town Manager to hire part time people, which might bring grievances and end up in arbitration.

Recreation has put out a new brochure with new programs. Fall programs have started. Soccer wrap-up tournament, eleven fields at high school, did not use synthetic field. Karen Gallicchio is setting up the schedule for the Synthetic field with all the athletic programs (youth, high school, and interscholastic practices and programs). She has also been in touch MUSCO satellite system for lighting at the park to keep track times and which youth organizations are on the parks. Preschool programs had state audit and enrollment is up.

Eileen Francolino inquiring on the revenue being brought in on the synthetic field, 2 – 3 rentals have brought in close to \$1,500.00 not including lights. Bruce Till pointed out that field rentals should be higher in spring time if other fields are wet. Rich Khentigan asked if the rental money was going into a special revenue fund, Bruce confirms it goes into a separate account. Eileen mentioned the kids at high school are very happy with the new volleyball courts, thank you to parks department from the kids they love it. Also kids from Clem Lemire skate park are inquiring about lighting at night for safety and night time use. Bruce Till mentions the light would only be there for safety purposes. The skate park will not be lit for night time usage. Skate park has been improved with caulking, graffiti has been painted, more work is needed, vandalism needs to stop. Bill DeBlasio lighting may deter vandalism and he has gotten more purple paint for skate ramp to paint with kids or have the parks department take care of the painting.

Don Woods acknowledged the Thank you letter from Pauline Dow for donating a family pool pass as a raffle prize to Touch a Truck.

Don Woods also discussed a letter received from Mark and Cindy Violette requesting a maple tree be planted at the end of the cul-de-sac on Boylston Street to replace one that was destroyed during last year's storm.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

### **EXTRAVAGANZA**

Stephanie Boulay came to discuss the Extravaganza expense details: Pre-sale beer garden ticket sales up this year. Fried dough booth should be open all day to generate more revenue. In the beer garden **ALL** ID's need to be checked at the door, beer sales should end at 9:30 pm. Carnival guy is interested in running until Sunday, something to look into for next year. Police expense up this year, only used Newington Police Dept. No need to have Mill Pond Pool open during the Extravaganza. Some craft vendors are not leaving the park on time, policy states they need to leave by 5 pm. Food vendor map layout available for next year. Not much room for more food vendors. A few food vendors have not yet paid their booth fee, need more accountability for them. Summer Concert: Wording and details needs to be adjusted in case of inclement weather on where the concert will be held. This year it was well attended even with the questionable weather. Overall this was a good year for the Extravaganza with the added food vendors and the incredible weather. Fireworks: Excellent, fireworks permit came in two weeks before the event even though it was applied for in March. They put on a great show try and keep them at the same price next year.

Extravaganza: (Comments from the board members)

Jeff Perillo: Beer garden - need prices outside of the beer garden, need an ATM near beer garden, two people checking id's to make the line move faster, more light, cash drawers are needed and more people needed to work at night. Don Woods is going to donate two cash drawers for next year.

Don Woods, Kathy Zolad: Stephanie did an outstanding job putting the Extravaganza together and will be missed.

## COMMUNITY CENTER

Back in the building committees hands. Bruce Till made a recommendation to the manger that sub-committee members of this commission be on the building committee that will look at the whole thing. Town manager gave a presentation to the building committee for a separate community center. Some people where having second thoughts but are now back on board for a separate community center and Town Hall renovations. Bruce Till we be attending the building committee meetings. There is a lot of interest for a competition amongst architects designs, which would be a part of the RFP process. Time frame seems to have slowed down. Might be bringing Olson back as a facilitator for the project, need more specifics from him, ie: his hourly rate and how many hours to do the work. Don Woods mentioned that parks & recreation department would be part of the process but only after the process was clearly established and site was chosen. Area near soccer fields would be an ideal spot for community center. Don Woods said that the property by CL&P is being looked at for the site.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

### LIGHT POLICY

Working with MUSCO satellite service to account for which organizations are using the fields and at what time. Originally everything was going to be done through the satellite coordinating with schedules having lights turn on and off according to the schedules. Karen Gallicchio has worked out another system with the youth originations doing it manually through the satellite system in case of schedule changes and also if back to back practices the lights will stay on. Bill DeBlasio to Jeff Perillo noticed the scoreboard at baseball field lit but not working correctly. Jeff Perillo trying to get it running and work it out. NHS uses scoreboard for playoff games and other organizations use it as part of rental. Jeff Perillo has put in new speakers near the concession stand. Bruce Till suggested maybe a vendor like Coca-Cola could sponsor a new scoreboard.

### MENS SOFTBALL

Karen Gallicchio has helped set up an advisory committee for the Newington Men's Softball League. This committee is made up of Team Representative to change and enforce player eligibility requirements. New requirements for upcoming season for players must be one of the following: a taxpayer, business owner, NHS graduate, or if a player does not meet those requirements they can be one of four additional players that pay \$50.00 to play for the season. Bruce Till will see how it works out with the committee if bylaws are not enforced the system

will not work change to open registration and pay a fee to maintain fields and lights. Don Woods mentioned Jack Crowley will be the Advisory Committee Chairperson and make sure the league follows the rules and it is worth a try for the upcoming season. **MOTION: A motion was made by Kathy Zolad to accept the proposal for the changes in eligibility requirements for the Men's Softball League on a trial bases for one year and if rules are not adhered to then the program will be terminated. A review will be done at the end of the season. Jeff Perillo seconded the motion, all were in favor with 10-0 vote.**

Eileen Francolino mentioned Youth Adult Council is looking for a Representative from the parks and recreation board if anyone is interested in volunteering call.

### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: A motion was made by Mary Udice to adjourn. Jeff Perillo seconded the motion, all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm with a 10-0 vote.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Nancy Jay