

## **NEWINGTON PARKS & RECREATION**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2015**

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m., following a brief celebration to honor those members who will no longer be serving on the Board.

#### **II. ROLL CALL**

Board: Eileen Francolino, Mary Udice, Ed Marchion, Jen Win-Johnson, Bill DeBlasio, Beth Manke, Mary Beth Kelliher, Michael Camillo.

Board Members Absent: Richard Khentigan, Bob Fresen.

Staff: Superintendent William DeMaio.

#### **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mary Udice made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 13, 2015 meeting with an amendment to include Bob Fresen listed as an absent board member. The motion was seconded by Bill DeBlasio. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

#### **V. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS**

Report from the Superintendent:

- The Peanuts Movie event was a huge success. Both the kids and adults enjoyed themselves. Mr. Uliano was a great host who went above and beyond to extend himself to the guests at the show. Mayor Woods and Mayor-elect Zartarian presented him with a proclamation to name it Cornelius Uliano Day in Newington
- The Parks staff has been very busy.
- There were many burials this month, which takes two men per grave away from their regular duties.
- The Parks staff is averaging 27-30 tree complaints per month. Tom LaPierre is taking the lead in handling things in this area. Superintendent DeMaio is pleased with the progress.
- 14 trees were planted on Crestview Drive. The residents are grateful.
- The Parks staff worked on correcting a drainage problem at the playground at Mill Pond Park. Working in conjunction with the Engineering Department, they installed three catch basins and 300-400 feet of pipe. Further repairs to the drainage system will take place in the spring.
- Recreational programming is busy as usual.
- The Teen Center is now open to 5th and 6th graders on a trial basis. So far it has been successful.

- A dance for 7th and 8th graders was enjoyed by 350 students. That is approximately 75 more than they have had in the past.
- The Halloween party was sold out with over 200 youth. Superintendent DeMaio extended his thanks to the NHS Girls Swim Team for volunteering to staff the party.
- Don Woods asked for some clarification regarding how overtime hours are listed in the monthly report. He requested that overtime be listed as a percentage of the budget rather than total hours. Superintendent DeMaio said that he would provide a Munis summary budget sheet, which will indicate the amount budgeted, the amount used and percentage remaining. Superintendent DeMaio plans to present overtime hours as a percentage of the total budget. He explained that overtime is used on an emergency basis and seasonal basis. Consequently, allocated funds are not used equally each month.
- Eileen Francolino requested some information on the handling of public hours at Indian Hill. She received complaints from senior citizens regarding freeze delays at the course. Seniors are given tee times between 8 and 10 a.m. In the event of a freeze delay, the course does not open until 10 a.m. Members are allowed on the course prior to the seniors, pushing them back to much later time. Ed Marchion explained that members pay a substantial fee to join the club and must be given priority. Superintendent DeMaio explained that he is working with a subcommittee to examine the future of the club. In addition, many golf courses, in general, are experiencing financial difficulties.

#### **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

- Superintendent DeMaio reported that the Kellogg Eddy House was rented out for a small party in the amount of \$175. One staff member and a docent from the Historical Society helped to make the event a success. A fee of \$125 was paid to the Department and a \$50 donation will be made to the Newington Historical Society.
- Superintendent DeMaio reported that the plan to build community event signs was far more costly than anticipated, \$4,360 each. As a result, the signs will be made in house. Mike Camillo offered the use of his tools to help with the project.
- Ed Marchion reported that the beech tree on the Town Green can be resized. He volunteered to complete the project for no charge.

#### **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- Fireworks  
A new agreement has been signed with Pyrotechnico. The show will cost a minimum of \$15,000. Superintendent DeMaio is confident that we can raise the money for a bigger show. He would like to be able to use 3, 4 and 5 inch shells so that they can be seen over the trees.
- Program Guide Advertisement Program  
Details of the new advertisement were included in the monthly packet given to the Board. The program guide reaches 13,000 households and has a shelf life of three months. Initial responses to the advertisement program have been very positive. Over \$5,000 has been raised. Superintendent DeMaio plans to devise a program to

recognize those businesses, civic groups and individuals that show support for the Department with a “Building A Stronger Community” Awards Program.

**VIII. REPORTS**

- Superintendent DeMaio reported that the new Facebook page is up and running. This will be a great way to reach the community and get the word out about the great things going on within the Department.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

- Prior to adjournment, Don Woods offered his thanks to members who will be leaving the Board. He explained that the next Board meeting stands to include several new members who will fill open seats and hoped that current members will stay on for another term.
- Mary Beth Kelliher made a motion to adjourn. Mike Camillo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Francolino