

**NEWINGTON PARKS & RECREATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2009
MEETING MINUTES**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Jeff Hedberg, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM

II. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

Jeff Hedberg, Neal Forte, Eileen Francolino, Mary Udice, Jeff Perillo, Ken Leggo, Bob Tofeldt, Jonathan Boni, Bill DeBlasio

Board Members Absent: Don Woods, John Kennedy,

Staff: Bruce Till

Town Council Liaison: Jay Bottalico

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 10, 2008

Motion: Bob Tofeldt made a motion to approve the minutes of December 10, 2008; Kenneth Leggo seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion to approve the minutes of December 10, 2008 was unanimously approved with a 9-0 vote.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Kevin Ericson (44 Deep Wood Drive), Marc Koss (19 Old Musket Drive), and Ron Carrier (5 Commonwealth Avenue) spoke on behalf on Newington Boys Travel Basketball. Mr. Ericson voiced his concern about the amount of practice time the Boys Travel Teams were receiving in the Mortensen Community Center Gymnasium. The Boys Travel team currently divides their practice time amongst the Community Center Gym, as well as John Wallace Middle School Gym, Elizabeth Green Elementary School Gym and an East Hartford Gym. Mr. Ericson also voiced a concern over the need for Special Olympics to use the Mortensen Community Center Gym at times when Boys Travel Basketball could be using the gym.

V. CORRESPONDENCE / COMMUNICATIONS / REPORTS

Superintendent Bruce Till spoke briefly in regards to the Boys Travel Basketball, informing the board that the gentlemen approached him at the end of the summer requesting to add a 5th grade Boys Developmental Travel Team, at which time Bruce honored the request, informing the coaches that they will have to share their practice times with the additional team. Bruce Till informed the Boys Travel Basketball representatives that he would look further into the practice time situation and contact Ron Carrier.

From the Superintendent:

- Badger Field
 - Bruce informed the Board that the concession stand at Badger Field is being torn down by the Highway department.
 - Bruce also indicated that Newington Little League is picking up the cost of demolition.
- Budget
 - Memorandum: sent to Town Managers office
 - Copies of 0%, 5%, and 10% budget reductions were given to the Board, along with a report of the percentage of profits made by specific programs.
 - The board voiced concerns of cutting important youth programs while leaving some adult programs unaffected by the budget.
- Financial Assistance
 - Bruce reported to the Board that along with the Human Services department the Recreation department has compiled a written policy of who can qualify for financial aid and what financial aid they can receive.
- Program Fees
 - Bruce informed the board that while going through the budget he has found that our Recreation programs are bringing in little to no profits.
 - Bruce also voiced his concern over the pricing of some of the department's recreation programs. Bruce indicated that Newington charges some of the lowest prices for programs in the state.
 - Bruce would like the department and Board to come up with a policy to work with explaining which programs can be operate at a gain, a loss or breaking even.
- Recreation Software System
 - Bruce Till informed the Board that the department's current registration system is outdated and cannot produce the program information needed to create reports and assist with budgeting.
 - The Board is in full support of the department getting a new registration system that could better benefit the department.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Turf Fields

- There have been no updates from the Town Managers office
- The synthetic turf field will not be moved to the High School field.
- The Board would like to speak with the Town Manager, as well as, receiving for information on the RFP.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

2009 Extravaganza

- There will be an Extravaganza Sub-Committee meeting held on Wednesday, January 28th, 2009, at 6:30 PM.
- Mary Udice, Eileen Francolino, Neal Forte, Bob Tofeldt, and Jeff Hedberg will be attending the meeting.

Golf Tournament

- The department is starting to put together the golf tournament. The golf tournament will be held on Monday, May 11th, 2009.
- Bruce Till informed the Board that they may begin forming a sub-committee for the Golf Tournament.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mary Udice made a motion to adjourn; Jeff Perillo seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion to adjourn was unanimously approved at 8:24 PM with a 9-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Lach
Parks & Recreation Board Secretary

Date