

**NEWINGTON PARKS & RECREATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2009  
MEETING MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Jeff Hedberg, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Board: Jeff Hedberg, Jonathan Boni (arrival 7:34), Eileen Francolino, Robert Tofeldt (arrival 7:34), Mary Udice, Jeff Perillo, Don Woods, Bill DeBlasio (arrival 7:34)  
Board Members Absent: Ken Leggo, Neal Forte, John Kennedy  
Staff: Superintendent Bruce Till, and Special Events Coordinator Jodi Lee  
Town Council Liaison: None Present

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 20, 2009**

**MOTION: Mary Udice made a motion to approve the minutes of October 20, 2009. Jon Boni seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion to approve the minutes of October 20, 2009 was unanimously approved with an 8-0 vote.**

**IV. NEW BUSINESS / PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**NEWINGTON SWIM CLUB**

Newington Swim Club was asked by the Board of Parks & Recreation to attend the November meeting. Bruce Till asked the group to explain how the team has their selection process, how many swimmers are non-residents and an overview of the team. Mark Greaves and Mike Karanian from Newington Swim Club attended the meeting.

This was the first year that Newington Swim Club had significant cuts across all age groups. The basic reason for these cuts is safety, pool size and pool time. Last year there were 130 kids on the team. There was not enough time to coach and supervise a team this size. This year the team is down to 105 swimmers, and about 20 of these swimmers are from out of town. This swim team is competitive, and is not meant to be instructional swim lessons. There is a minimum swim criteria that the swimmers need to meet. Newington Swim Club did not know there was a residency policy. Now that they are aware of this, they will review their selection process for next year.

The Parks & Recreation Board agreed the current Use of Facilities Policy, stating that 90% of participants need to be Newington Residents, should remain as is. If the Newington Swim Club or any other organization under Parks & Recreation chooses not to abide by these guidelines, these organizations will pay custodial fees and rentals fees that are much higher than the Parks & Recreation fee schedule, per the schedule developed by the Board of Education. Fees for custodial staffing paid by the Newington Swim Club to the Newington Parks & Recreation Department are transferred to the Board of Education through the Finance Department. Parks & Recreation does not charge any fees, nor do they incur any direct expenses, with respect to the Newington Swim Club.

Bruce Till also discussed other ways the pool could be used by the Parks & Recreation if there were fewer participants on the swim team. If only residents were allowed on The Newington Swim Club, extra pool hours may be used for lessons and classes like water aerobics or water polo. Bruce will provide the Board with pool hours and figures for next month's meeting. Eileen Francolino also asked why Newington Swim

Club does not have a summer swim team. The Swim Club responded that staffing has been the problem in the past.

## V. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS

### A. FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

#### DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Bruce reminded everyone that their October Monthly report was in their packet. October was a very active month for Parks and Recreation. The Teen Center had a dance with approximately 215 students attending. The Children's Halloween Party had over 148 attendees. The Creative Playtime Preschool was inspected by the State. Minor projects needed to be completed. All concerns were addressed and they have met and passed all state requirements. Zumba classes have been very popular and more classes have been added. The Senior Center had their Senior Expo and Park & Recreation participated in this event.

#### PARK UPDATES

Beechwood Park will be adding one more pieces of equipment for children ages 2-5. Beacon Park updates are underway and should be completed by next week. Candlewick Park and Starr Park will be next for improvements. Any equipment that is out of code in all of the town parks is being fixed or replaced on an ongoing basis.

#### CAPITAL IMPROVEMNET PLAN

The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) suggested projects are attached to the Board packet. Bruce Till recommended putting a sub-committee together to review the CIP plan and the overall budget of the Department. Work for this committee will begin now and go through December. The subcommittee could be made up of 3-5 people. Jeff Hedberg asked is anyone was interested in being on the subcommittee. Don Woods, Eileen Francolino and Jon Boni volunteered.

**MOTION: Jeff Hedberg made a motion to have Don Woods, Eileen Francolino and Jon Boni be part of the CIP and Budget sub-committee. Bill DeBlasio seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion for the subcommittee was unanimously approved with an 8-0 vote.**

Bruce explained to the Board why the new bleachers and Gym Floor refinishing is scheduled for 2012 & 2013. Other projects in the Community Center gym need to be completed first, such as the roof. The Building Department has to have that CIP job completed first. Bruce asked the group if they had any questions on the CIP proposal.

Jon Boni asked why the gym floor was not refinished this year. Bruce Till said it was not needed. If it becomes a safety issue this year, it will be done, but it was not needed as of now. There was some discussion on the number of lights out in the gym. Bruce said a work order was put into the Facilities Department as soon as it was reported.

Jon Boni commented about the Men's Basketball League. He said it was the first year that everything has been on schedule. Karen Gallicchio has done a great job.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

### A. SYNTHETIC FIELD/CLEM LEMIRE UPDATE

Jeff Hedberg updated the group on the sub committee meeting. Some of the prices have come in lower from Milone & MacBroom after Bruce called them. The total amount for the field and all the extras totals

\$1,660,000. This is the proposal that will go to the Town Council. Of this, \$500,000 is grant money. Don Woods asked what the time frame was for the grant. Bruce Till thought 5 years, but he will confirm. Jeff Perillo inquired about the soil test. Bruce Till said the results were fine and the soil is mostly clay. That's why there has been a water problem.

Jeff Hedberg asked the Board if all were in agreement moving forward presenting this to the Town Council. Eileen Francolino asked who would make the presentation to the Town Council. Bruce said it would be a combination of Board Members, representatives from Milone & MacBroom, and the Building Committee. A Needs Assessment has to be completed and presented to the Town Council. Bruce Till also suggested a Sports Coalition be formed so not only one sport is represented in this request. Mary Udice suggested that the sports groups fundraise to make money for some of the extras on the fields so the Board does not have to ask the Town Council for the full amount. Eileen Francolino suggested the presentation be put together and given to the Sports Council to get all the sports in town involved and good practice for the presentation to the Town Council.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. PARKS & RECREATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Jeff Hedberg acknowledged that the current Board will move forward with the Board of Directors' recommendation to the Town Council; however, a new Board will be in place next month since some terms are up this month (November 2009). There was discussion as to which terms are up. Jeff Perillo's and Neal Forte's seats are up on the Board. Jeff Hedberg explained to the Board how many seats are up as a result of the November election. There was discussion about John Kennedy's seat, and Jeff Hedberg said John never officially resigned with the Town Clerk. His attendance record and the attendance policy were then discussed. Jeff Hedberg said John Kennedy will be at the next meeting giving the Republicans 6 votes. Don Woods wanted to go on record stating he thought it was wrong to have John Kennedy attend the next meeting to have a vote for the Chairman and then immediately resign, when it was on record at the August 18, 2009 meeting that he had resigned. Don Woods stated that it is not right to have someone vote for Chairman when he has no interest in the Parks & Recreation Board and has not attended 8 out of 9 meetings this year.

Bruce Till thanked the current Board for their hard work and service to the Parks & Recreation Department and is looking forward to working with everyone in their next term in office.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: Don Woods made a motion to adjourn, Eileen Francolino seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion to adjourn was unanimously approved at 8:38 PM with an 8-0 vote.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Jodi Lee  
Parks & Recreation  
Special Events Coordinator