

**NEWINGTON PARKS & RECREATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2009
MEETING MINUTES**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Jeff Hedberg, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

<u>Board:</u>	Jeff Hedberg, Jonathan Boni, Eileen Francolino, Robert Tofoldt, Mary Udice, Kenneth Leggo, Jeff Perillo, Neal Forte
<u>Board Members Excused:</u>	Don Woods, Bill DeBlasio
<u>Board Members Absent:</u>	None
<u>Staff:</u>	Superintendent Bruce Till, Recreation Supervisor Karen Gallicchio and Special Events Coordinator Jodi Lee
<u>Town Council Liaison:</u>	None Present

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 16, 2009

MOTION: Bob Tofeldt made a motion to approve the minutes of June 16, 2009. Neal Forte seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion to approve the minutes of June 16, 2009 was unanimously approved with a 8-0 vote.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no Public Participation.

V. CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS

A. FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Jeff Hedberg asked if everyone was getting the minutes and communications via email. Everyone confirmed they were.

B. FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Bruce Till reminded everyone that their June and July monthly reports were in their packets. He summarized that summer was coming to close and there were record numbers for playground camps, pool passes and pool attendance. Summer camps ended last Friday; Mill Pond Pool closed last Monday and Churchill Pool will close next Monday. The Dog Days of Summer Swim was happening tonight at Mill Pond Pool. It was an active summer; he was very pleased with the staff of college and high-school employees. He was very pleased overall with all the summer activities. He mentioned all the specifics on numbers were in the reports.

ON-GOING PROJECTS

YOUNG FARM

The Young Farm well project is complete.

BEECHWOOD PARK

The tree work is complete. Stumps have been removed and landscape work has been started. Playground equipment is being installed. The priority of getting the neighborhood parks up and running is moving forward. The next parks we are looking into is Beacon and Starr.

GEESE PROBLEM

The Department has been getting phone calls regarding the problems the geese are causing at Churchill park and the pond. We will be putting in a culvert box with a gate valve with piping to the manhole cover to get a better water flow in that area. If we go the route of chemically treating it, we need to go through the DEP. Things that need to happen: the pond needs to be dredged and there needs to be better water flow. Jeff Hedberg suggested some fake animal figures that you see at golf courses. Some problems may be vandalism and changing their location. Jeff Perillo, suggested a Bird of Prey call. There was some discussion about the living habitat in Churchill pond and how the pond needs to be skimmed and have water flow. Eileen Francolino mentioned it may be unfair to charge people for the lower level picnic area because the pond is in such bad shape. Bruce confirmed the problem will be fixed.

MIDGET FOOTBALL FIELD

The midget football field sod project is complete. The sod was laid from hash to hash mark and was chemically treated. Practice was moved to Wallace School; the jamboree will be at the high school this weekend, and the season will start on the Clem Lemire field next week. Sod was also placed on the soccer fields at the high school in the goal area.

STORM DAMAGE

The Department did a full report to the Town Manager and to the Board regarding storm damage. There was some budget interest last year to purchase a bucket truck. We are looking into it again or having this work outsourced.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. SYNTHETIC FIELD/CLEM LEMIRE UPDATE

Jeff Hedberg updated the Board on the sub-committee meeting for the synthetic field. There was a meeting last night to interview the two final RFP companies; Milone & MacBroom and M.R. Roming Associates. It was a unanimous decision. The Sub-committee recommends Milone & MacBroom to the Board, which will then go to the Town Manager or the Town Council. The proposal was passed around. No one had any questions. The price for Milone & MacBroom was \$4500; M.R. Roming Associates was \$5500; the two other quotes were \$1500 and \$1800.

MOTION: Jeff Perillo made a motion to recommend Milone & MacBroom to the Town Manager, Bob Tofeldt seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion to recommend Milone & MacBroom to the Town Manager to do the work on the Synthetic Field was unanimously approved with a 8-0 vote.

B. EXTRAVAGANZA

A quick update was given on the Extravaganza Committee Meeting. For the first time ever, there was a profit of \$200. Suggestions were made for next year. Some thoughts were: movie night on Monday or Tuesday; Bowling night may or may not happen; the carnival on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday during the Extravaganza. The carnival rides may take the place of the inflatables. Next year we are looking into more sponsorships and more advertizing, including TV and radio.

Jeff Perillo made an observation about the Extravaganza that in the past it was more of a community event. Civic groups served all the food. He suggested we look into trying to make this happen again. A

suggestion was made to get the community organizations together to see if there was any interest. Eileen Francolino reinforced the statement that the Extravaganza has lost the community/block party feel. Organizations started leaving when Parks & Recreation started asking for a percentage of the profit. Jeff Perillo also asked if the Parks & Recreation Board was here to help fundraise to off-set the costs of the Extravaganza or to help the Park & Recreation Department. He is unclear why other town departments don't budget money for the Extravaganza like the police department and fire department.

Jeff Hedberg made a comment about the amount of garbage on Garfield Street after the Extravaganza.

Eileen Francolino suggested that the civic groups be able to sell items to make money. They have not been able to do this in the past.

John Boni asked why the firework cost was so much lower than last year. Bruce negotiated a lower cost. Comments were made on the display this year. The overall opinion was it was a great show.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. LIONS CLUB

Jeff Hedberg spoke to Connie from the Lions Club. She was upset the Lions Club did not run the carnival this year. She contacted the Mayor, which was forwarded to Jeff. He commented they were never told they couldn't run one. They can still do their carnival in August. She was upset because the dates she wanted were already booked. A comment was also made that they thought this Lions Club was based out of Berlin and not Newington. Neil Forte made comments regarding his last meeting with them and explained how they need to pay Parks & Grounds and the police and they didn't want to comply.

B. BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jeff Hedberg asked Bruce Till a question regarding facility use. Bruce explained a letter went out from the Board of Education several months ago. There are some private groups that do not fall under the Parks & Recreation Department: Blackhawks Wrestling, Newington Swim Club, Soccer Club of Newington, Travel Basketball, Midget Football and Little League. The Board of Education is looking for additional revenue. Since they are not part of Parks & Recreation, they should be under a different pay schedule. If these groups decide to fall under Parks & Recreation they will have to follow our policy and procedures. Bruce predicts these groups will soon fall under the Parks & Recreation Department. The question was raised if we can handle the extra work load. The Board may soon have to make some philosophical decisions once these organizations start coming to the Board. Karen Gallicchio commented on how this started and thinks that the only group that will be affected by this is the Blackhawks Wrestling.

C. OUTDOOR CROSS COUNTRY PROGRAM

Jeff Hedberg inquired about the Outdoor Cross Country program director. He is Jim Thomas-Melley. He is retiring from this program and will not be doing it again next year.

D. WILD ANIMALS

Eileen Francolino made a comment regarding wild coyotes in the field on Main Street on the soccer field and said there were animal carcasses. Bruce Till said it was the first he heard of it and will have it taken care of.

E. JOHN KENNEDY

Karen Gallicchio asked if John Kennedy has officially resigned. Jeff Hedberg confirmed this and said he sent a letter. Bruce asked that he forward the letter to him since we did not have it and need to file it with the Town Clerk.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Jeff Perillo made a motion to adjourn, Mary Udice seconded the motion, all were in favor, and the motion to adjourn was unanimously approved at 8:20 PM with a 8-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Jodi Lee
Parks & Recreation
Special Events Coordinator