

**NEWINGTON PARKS & RECREATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2008  
MEETING MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Jeff Hedberg, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Board Members Present:

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

Board Member Absent: John Kennedy

Staff: Bruce Till, Sharon Glasson, Karen Gallicchio

Town Council Liaison: Jay Bottalico

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 8, 2008**

**Motion: Mary Udice made a motion to approve the minutes of October 8, 2008;** Jonathan Boni seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion to approve the minutes of October 8, 2008 was unanimously approved with a 10-0 vote.

**IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Connie Jascowski and Karen Harrington presented the Board with a Proposal for the Teen Center entitled "Project Teen Center". They would like to see additional hours available at the Teen Center as well as new programs such as after school hours. Ms. Jascowski proposed that in order to reduce potential staffing costs associated with an after school program, we would need to work with a local college, such as Central Connecticut State University, whose students are required to work a number volunteer hours to be accepted into certain academic programs. For more immediate improvement, they have also proposed the idea of a mural contest, where our teens would compete by painting murals on the Teen Center walls.

**V. CORRESPONDENCE / COMMUNICATIONS / REPORTS**

Michelle Lach, Teen Center Director, spoke on behalf of the Parks & Recreation Department and Teen Center staff. Michelle explained to the Board that the Teen Center currently houses a pool table, ping pong table, air hockey table, two televisions, DVD player, PSP2 gaming system, and Nintendo Wii gaming system, all made available to the teens when the Center is open (Friday evenings from 7 to 11 p.m. from October until June). In addition to the Teen Center facility, teens take advantage of the open gym time available to them from 7:00 to 10:30 p.m. every Friday evening. Michelle reported to the

Board that the Teen Center staff is currently working toward improving the Teen Center. After numerous discussions with the teens, Michelle informed the Board that a Badminton Tournament was in the planning stages as well as additional dances, projects, and weekly activities that the teens have requested.

Connie Jascowski and Karen Harrington left the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Mary Udice explained that at one time there was a subcommittee that assisted with the Teen Center programming; and that if the need arises, she would be willing to assist once again.

**From Interim Superintendent:**

- Personnel
  - Bruce Till introduced Sharon Glasson, the department's new Recreation Supervisor, to the Board.
  - Dennis Bonitsky, Supervisor of Parks & Grounds Division, will be retiring on or about January 1, 2009. Bruce has spoken to John Salomone and requested that the Supervisor of Parks and Grounds' position be posted and filled prior to Dennis' retirement so that Dennis will be able to help train the new Supervisor.
  - Bruce Till also updated the Board on the hiring of a new Superintendent of Parks & Recreation. No candidate was chosen from the first round of applicants; therefore, the position has been reposted on the Connecticut and National Recreation and Parks' websites. The new posting advertises a new salary range—the closing for this posting is November 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Budget
  - Bruce Till informed the Board that every department must present three budgets for the next fiscal year. The three budgets will consist of a 0% increase, a 5% decrease, and a 10% decrease.
  - The operating budget is currently being worked on by department staff.
- Capital Improvement Plan
  - Capital Improvement Plan budget was submitted at the end of October
  - A subcommittee has been formed and is meeting to discuss prioritization and project planning of all CIP projects
- Synthetic Fields
  - Bruce explained to the Board that the Request for Proposal for the synthetic field has been submitted to the Town Manager
  - Bruce also cautions that the budget has not yet been approved and that the economic situation must be taking into consideration
- Playscapes
  - Bruce has informed the Board that he has reviewed the playscape audits, and the Parks & Grounds Department is making immediate improvements to necessary areas before the winter season begins.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

West Meadow Cemetery:

Don Woods gave the Board an update on the West Meadow cemetery project. Don informed the Board that the budget is being finalized and the proposal has been set aside.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

Volunteer of the Year:

Eileen Francolino inquired of the Board as to whether anyone has ideas regarding nomination(s) for the Volunteer of the Year award. Eileen explained that applications will be completed on behalf of the nominee and should be accompanied by letters of recommendation.

Programs:

The department is currently reviewing each of their programs to determine profitability. The Board would like a list of programs, identifying classification category of each program, as outlined in the Master Plan (Public Access, Core Services, Quality of Life, Highly Specialized/Individualized).

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** Eileen Francolino made a motion to adjourn; Bill DeBlasio seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion to adjourn was unanimously approved at 9:04 p.m. with a 10-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

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Michelle Lach  
Parks & Recreation Board Secretary

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Date