

**Minutes of the
Parks and Recreation Commission
May 19, 2009**

In Attendance:

Barbara Dobbin, Chairwoman
Phil Kearns, Vice Chairman
Wayne Tinker, Secretary
Gina Carey
Jon Chase
David Thaxter

Paul J. Roche, Director
Robert Schneider, Asst. Director
Robin Matthews, Asst. Director
Eileen Cipolla, Accountant

Jane Byrnes, Recording Secty.

Meeting called to order by the Chairwoman at 8:03 p.m.

Approval of Agenda:

The agenda as submitted was approved.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Tinker made a correction to the minutes of the April, 2009 meeting, page three, first paragraph; “It was the Commission’s.....who will be affected by the cuts.”
The minutes as amended were approved.

Financial Status

Report/Budget Summary

Ms. Cipolla summarized for the Commission the year-to-date revenue comparison report. There was a brief discussion regarding the upcoming seasonal revenue numbers and how the economy could affect these numbers.

Chairman’s Report:

Ms. Dobbin reviewed with the Commission the new proposed sub-committee list. Upon agreement, Mr. Chase made the following motion:

RESOVLE, to approve the new Commission sub-committee members list as presented.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Director’s Report:

The Director reported on the following:

- Mr. Roche reported that he has been working with the Connecticut Legislative branch and they have completed several projects this year, including: the “Background Check program, Open Space Funding, and an extension on the Pesticide Ban.”

- The Director summarized the current status on the Sturges Park issue. Mr. Kearns suggested that the Chairwoman ask the First Selectman for a copy of the Master Plan.
- The Director is working with a committee regarding possible fundraising through the Friends of Parks and Recreation for the Barlow Mountain pool.

A discussion ensued regarding fundraising for the Barlow Mtn. Pool and for other aquatic projects.

- Mr. Roche updated the Commission on the current status of the relocation of the Skate Park. The Commission had several questions regarding the site, future capital budget requests, enrollment numbers and the Park's proposed future design elements.

Assistant Director-Recreation:

Membership

Ms. Matthews reported that memberships continued to decline in both Rec and Wellness; however, Lap continues to report a slight increase. Ms. Matthews mentioned that the Department is waiting to see what the numbers will reflect after the fee structure change.

- Ms. Matthews also reported that the building has been busy and we are currently holding summer employee orientation programs.

Assistant Director-Parks:

- Mr. Schneider attended that Tiger Hollow annual meeting. The committee is not planning any large projects just concentrating on some smaller less costly projects. There was a brief discussion regarding the fencing at Tiger Hollow.
- The crews are busy with Ballard Park spring clean-up and repairs of the stage. Mr. Schneider stated that there are 21 CHIRP concerts this season.
- The Asst. Director is working with an Eagle Scout on building a small deck for kayak launching at the Rec Center pond.
- The installation of the pathway at Ballard Park is complete and the port-a-johns have been enclosed.
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Sub-Committee Reports:

For future decisions and developments, the Commission asked which sub-committee had jurisdiction over the Skate Park. Ms. Dobbin stated that she will speak with Evie Bottali regarding this item.

Buildings and Grounds- Mr. Tinker

Mr. Tinker reported they had met with the Ridgefield Rebels regarding field use criteria. The sub-committee had requested a copy of the up-to-date rosters from Town teams. Mr. Schneider stated that the Rebels would have them to him by the end of the month. Mr. Chase gave a summary of the issue for the Chairperson.

Programs & Long Range Planning-Evie Bottali

Due to Ms. Bottali's absence, the Commission will postpone the distribution and discussion of the Long Range Plan until the June Commission meeting.

Budget & Policy-Phil Kearns

Mr. Kearns will meet with Ms. Dobbin and Ms. Carey to review and bring Ms. Dobbin up-to-date on the Department's financial structure.

ADA-Gina Carey

No report at this time.

Aquatics-David Thaxter

No report at this time.

Old Business

No report at this time.

New Business

Mr. Roche reported that he had received a request from the Planning & Zoning regarding the 2010 Plan of Conservation and Development report. Ms. Dobbin and the Director will work on the report and get back to the Commission.

With no further business, the Commission adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Minutes Approved: _____
Wayne H. Tinker, Secretary

***These minutes are a general summary of the meeting and are not intended to be a verbatim transcription.**