

**TOWN OF DARIEN  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2012**

ATTENDANCE: Jane Branigan; Susan Daly; Andy Hunter; Bob Marchesi;  
Charlie Goodyear; Mary Flynn; Susan Graham (7:40 p.m.)

STAFF:

OTHER:

Ms. Branigan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF MARCH 21, 2012**

The changes to the minutes of the March 21, 2012 meeting are as follows:

On page 5, under 4. Darien Police, change the 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence to: "Linda did not have time to find anything out. Mary Flynn will report back to the Commission."

**\*\* MS. DALY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 21, 2012 MEETING AS AMENDED.**

**\*\* MS. BRANIGAN SECONDED.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH TWO (2) VOTES IN FAVOR (BRANIGAN, DALY) AND FOUR (4) VOTES ABSTAINED (FLYNN, GOODYEAR, HUNTER, MARCHESI).**

Ms. Branigan added that she has received information from the Captain of the Police Department who oversees Officer Chip Stahl, and it was reported that 7 written warnings have been given out to date at Woodland Park. The next time the violators violate the rules, they will receive a ticket.

**DISCUSS REPORT ON RULES AND REGULATIONS "DOGS IN PARKS"**

Ms. Branigan said this will be a review of the report that Mary Flynn and Erika Morris have put together. It was agreed that items 1, Darien Land Trust, and 2, Friends of Tilley Pond, are okay. Item 3, Woodland Park, has had the police called out. There is a side street entry into the park that seems to be a problem.

The only issue that DDOG has is the summer hours at Cherry Lawn. She said they recommend that the year round hours go from dawn until 8:30 a.m. Ms. Flynn said they did some research on this, and most of the children's activities don't begin until after 8:30 a.m. so it should be suitable. It was mentioned that if the extension of the time is approved, it would have to be publicized to the public.

Ms. Graham arrived at 7:40 p.m.

Some discussion took place about the times of the dog ordinance and the children's/public activities taking place in the parks. It was mentioned that the ordinance went into effect October 1, 2011, per the RTM, and the Commission had mentioned publicly that they would then review the Rules and Regulations in April of 2012. Data has been collected for the previous 6 months, through the winter, and it was suggested that data be collected through July, considered summer data. As there is no August meeting, the data collected through July will then be reviewed at the September meeting. Ms. Branigan said she will contact Town Counsel and Ms. Swiatek to see if they can change the Ordinance to reflect the Committee's recommendation of year round hours from dawn until 8:30 a.m. Ms. Daly said she has received some interest in the potential Eagle Scout project at Cherry Lawn Park. It was mentioned that all the other parks are doing well. It was suggested that the guards at the guard booth be informed of the dog rules and regulations.

### **UPDATE ON WEED BEACH MASTER PLAN PROJECT**

The Weed Beach Building Committee did not have their meeting this evening due to not having a quorum. Therefore, there was no report. It is evident that progress is being made. Residents are still using the beach as if no construction was going on. Some information was reported on the upcoming opening day ceremonies, with goodie bags being distributed to the first 300 children. All the information will be on the town's website. Some discussion took place regarding the appearance of less parking. It was mentioned that there is in fact less parking, but an overflow parking area with pavers will be created near the boathouse.

### **DISCUSS BUDGET PROPOSAL FISCAL 2013**

Ms. Branigan said the budget is now at the Board of Finance, and it will go before the RTM on May 14, 2012.

### **REPORTS**

a) Director

Ms. Swiatek's report is as submitted. A brief summary follows:

The mild winter weather has allowed for continued outdoor maintenance and equipment renovation/repair. The Senior Center had interior debris removed; Pear Tree Point had a new gatehouse floor built and picnic tables painted; Cherry Lawn and Town Hall had the turf blankets removed. All fields had lime fields tested based on soil tests; tennis court work at Weed had brush cleared out and old poles cut and removed. Beaches were sifted in mid-March. Daily ball field conditioning was done before April 1. Lastly, the repairs to the gazebo at Pear Tree Point have been done, in addition to having a wood railing extension

installed. The crack in the floor will most likely come back like any paved/concrete surface but the structure is in no danger.

b) Assistant Director

Mr. Coghlan's report is as submitted. A brief summary follows:

Interviews for lifeguards have been completed. Five lifeguards were hired out of fourteen applicants. There will be a full staff for Memorial Day weekend. Bids were opened on Monday, March 26 for beach security services. They will be choosing another bidder shortly as the apparent low bidder was the same company as last year but was not able to meet the stipulations of the bid. They are scheduled to begin work at Weed Beach on Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> and Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at Pear Tree Point. Bids were also opened for cleaning services as well as restroom cleaning services at both beaches (including the paddle tennis building at Weed Beach) and the comfort station at Cherry Lawn Park. ServiceMaster of Westport has been selected as our cleaning service provider. Cleaning services begin on Monday April 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Senior Center, will commence on Friday, May 11 at Pear Tree Point, and will start at Weed Beach as soon as the facilities are open to the public. The Cherry Lawn Park comfort station will be cleaned every day during the spring, summer, and fall months and three days per week during the winter. The paddle tennis season for 2011-2012 ended on March 24<sup>th</sup>.

c) Chairman

Ms. Branigan said that Mr. Goodyear will be leaving the Parks & Recreation Commission and relocating to New Canaan. Everyone wished him and his wife the best of luck in their move. She said that the Friends of Tilley Pond Park would like to have a liaison on the Parks & Recreation Commission, and Ms. Graham and Ms. Flynn agreed to take that responsibility. She mentioned that there will be a bird walk on May 14 from 7-9 a.m. at the Country Club of Darien. Coffee and donuts will be served at 6:30 a.m.

d) Sub-Committees

**DISCUSS ANY OTHER BUSINESS (TWO THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED)**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**ADJOURN MEETING**

**\*\* MS. GRAHAM MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**

**\*\* MS. FLYNN SECONDED.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Marr  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**NEXT MEETING:** Regular Meeting February 15, 2012, 7:30 pm; Room 119, Darien Town Hall