

**TOWN OF DARIEN  
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2011**

**ATTENDANCE:** Jane Branigan; Charlie Goodyear; Susan Daly; Andy Hunter;  
Marianne Gutierrez; Mary Flynn; Susan Graham (7:40 p.m.);  
Erika Morris (7:45 p.m.)

**STAFF:** Susan Swiatek, Director; Jim Coghlan, Assistant Director

**OTHER:**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 21, 2011**

The changes to the minutes of the regular meeting of September 21, 2011 are as follows:

On page 2, 1<sup>st</sup> sentence and last sentence, change “Mr. David Deevers” to ‘Mr. David Dever.’”

On page 3, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence, change “copper roof” to “standing seam roof”.

On page 5, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, add the following sentence at the end: “Ms. Russell requested new signs for the beaches.”

**\*\* MS. DALY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2011 AS AMENDED.**

**\*\* MS. GUTIERREZ SECONDED.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE (5) VOTES IN FAVOR (BRANIGAN, GOODYEAR, DALY, GUTIERREZ, FLYNN) AND ONE (1) VOTE ABSTAINED (HUNTER).**

**UPDATE ON WEED BEACH MASTER PLAN PROJECT**

Ms. Swiatek said the Weed Beach Building Committee met last week. There are several stages of work being done, and some of those stages include pouring foundations for the concession stand and the bathhouse. The framing should be done in the next few weeks. The asphalt has been removed, and some materials are being crushed at the site to be

reused at the site. The building rep, Mr. John Ryan, was at the Committee meeting and he provided cost sheets with all the financial details.

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

Ms. Swiatek said that she met on-site with the Committee Chair and the YMCA rep to review the trail. She said that there was a problem with mosquitoes in some parts of the trail area because of the proximity to wetlands and the recent rainy months. She said they are working to correct the problem. She hoped the equipment will be ordered soon.

### **BUDGET PROPOSAL FISCAL 2013**

Ms. Swiatek provided copies of the budget proposal for fiscal year 2013, as well as the 5-year capital plan. She explained that she gave them last year's budget with small notations indicating what was approved and what was cut. Ms. Swiatek said \$14,000 was approved for the paddle tennis courts, and \$61,900 was approved for equipment. All the other items that were requested last year, the sand, the backstop, fencing, etc., could be moved out to a later fiscal year, requested again, or removed.

Ms. Morris arrived at 7:45 p.m.

Some discussion took place about fencing for Holahan Field, the gazebo, and other items. Ms. Swiatek said the capital budget is the bigger part of the focus. She said that operationally, she can't foresee any changes. She said they received \$86,000 out of a total request of \$250,000.

### **REPORTS**

a) Director

Ms. Swiatek read her provided report, saying that there is now a full contingent on the maintenance crew. Jobs had been redefined and personnel in the park maintenance department can now do more varied tasks in addition to regular routine maintenance.

She said she attended a second hearing in Hartford for an FOI complaint related to the deer cull, and they will issue a ruling within two months. As reported earlier, the Weed Beach project is moving along, and they received two pieces of equipment that were in last year's budget. She said the Eagle Scout had worked last week on the trail. The gas line at Town Hall is not installed yet. The sailing building at Weed Beach suffered damage to utilities from Hurricane Irene. They are looking into strapping the utilities to the rafters to avoid future water damage and flooding from storms, as well as other options.

b) Assistant Director

Mr. Coghlan said the registration graphs he provided show a good trend and show consistency over the last three months. The Winter Program classes begin in December/January. He said surrounding towns have not seen the same registration consistency that Darien has. He said a significant amount of time has been spent on the paddle tennis court, and everything is now in full operation.

c) Chairman

Ms. Branigan said she had visited Weed Beach recently and said it was exciting to see the renovation project underway.

d) Sub-Committee

Ms. Swiatek said the signs for the Dogs In Parks Rules and Regulations have been approved, and ordered. She is awaiting their arrival. Ms. Branigan said the ordinance was passed by the RTM, effective 10/10/11.

**MEETING SCHEDULE 2012**

The 2012 meeting schedule was reviewed. The April meeting date was changed to April 11, 2012, and the December meeting date was moved to December 12, 2012.

- \*\* MS. FLYNN MOVED TO APPROVE THE CHANGES TO THE 2012 MEETING SCHEDULE.**
- \*\* MS. GUTIEREZ SECONDED.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**ADJOURN MEETING**

- \*\* MS. GUTIERREZ MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- \*\* MS. GRAHAM SECONDED.**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting ended at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Marr  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**NEXT MEETING: Regular Meeting November 16, 2011 7:30 p.m.**  
**Darien Town Hall, Room 119**