

**TOWN OF DARIEN
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2010**

ATTENDANCE: Jane Branigan, Chairman; Charles Goodyear; Susan Daly;
Vin Burke; Andy Hunter

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

OTHER:

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Branigan called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 16, 2009

The changes to the minutes of the regular meeting of December 16, 2009 are as follows:

On page 2, and throughout, under STATUS REPORT ON WEED BEACH, change “501C3” to “501(C)(3)”.

On page 2, under STATUS REPORT ON WEED BEACH, last paragraph, add the following to the last sentence: “to cover any additional costs for the playground, including items such as brick corrections”.

**** MR. BURKE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 16, 2009 AS AMENDED.**

**** MS. DALY SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED WITH THREE (3) VOTES IN FAVOR (BRANIGAN, DALY, BURKE) AND TWO (2) VOTES ABSTAINED (GOODYEAR, HUNTER).**

DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET FY 2011

Ms. Swiatek said at last month’s meeting, she couldn’t provide totals due to a system error. It has now been corrected, and she distributed the budget packet with the right totals. She said the first page of the budget is the most important. The percentage change on the right indicates how it was altered from last year. The Parks & Recreation Administration rate increase is not a 3.4% increase because they don’t have the current wages in last year’s budget. The current wages are replaced in the new budget request. The increase is actually less than 3.4%.

Ms. Swiatek said the gymnasium was refinished a year ago in a process that brought it down to the bare wood, and then re-painted, re-coated and re-sealed. It now requires maintenance that includes a light buff and a new coat each year to avoid going through the same process every few years. She put that into the budget, saying that they need to preserve what they have.

She reminded the Commissioners that she had been asked to provide a list of potential cuts, which she had given them previously. She said the list in front of them followed the same format, and the only item they might not be able to keep is the overtime on Saturdays for beach raking and refuse collection. She said that cuts would have an impact on the budget, and also on services.

**** MR. GOODYEAR MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET FY 2011 AS PRESENTED.**

**** MR. HUNTER SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

DISCUSS THE LIGHT AND ULTRA-LIGHT BOAT LAUNCH RAMP AT WEED BEACH

Ms. Swiatek said this item continues to remain on the agenda until it is resolved. She said the Executive Committee met with the architect and the engineer about the entire project. They are still working through some issues with the as-built, and they are not funded to engineer the new ramp.

Some discussion took place about relocating the boat launch ramp at Weed Beach. They were most interested in making a turnaround/drop-off area for cars to back down a sandy strip to allow boats/kayaks to be dropped off. This would improve the safety problem at the playground/boat launch ramp area. Ms. Swiatek is going to work with the engineer to get a project scope and a bid spec of what can be done, without doing the whole project. The ramp, in its present location, is an obvious safety hazard. The relocation of the ramp was recommended by the Harbor Master.

STATUS REPORT ON WEED BEACH MASTER PLAN

Ms. Swiatek said the meeting with the engineer and the architects was to ensure that the new as-built drawing is in concert with the building plans. This will further ensure that the value engineering items that were put in are correct so that it's ready to go to bid. The new drawing had some elevation questions in the paddle court area.

Some discussion took place about the Weed Beach Master Plan, and it was agreed that a communication piece about the Master Plan would be prepared among the Parks & Recreation Commission to have ready for the March meeting

Ms. Daly reported that the 501(C)(3) fund has officially been dissolved. A check in the amount of \$4,784.57 was sent to the Town with copies of the letter sent to Chairman Branigan, and Ms. Debbie Parnon. She said that a note was sent to 1st Selectman Campbell, saying that the playground is a beautiful addition to the Weed Beach Park, and to please consider finishing the Weed Beach project. A grand total of \$246,328.39 was donated to the town.

REPORTS

a) Director

Ms. Swiatek said she has been busy with the budget and the Senior Center projects. The Performance Measures Presentations will be at Town Hall on Saturday, January 23, 2010, at 10:30 a.m., and Chairman

Branigan asked the Commissioners to attend if they could. There is a Budget Meeting with the Board of Selectmen on Thursday, February 4, 2010 at 7:30 p.m., and Chairman Branigan asked the Commissioners to attend that, also, if they could.

b) Assistant Director

Mr. Coghlan said they have had the largest number of people registered for the winter programs in 10 years. He said all programs are self sufficient, and they don't lose money if there is a low participation rate. The CPR classes are being held at Town Hall and the Senior Center. There are defibrillators in Town Hall, the Senior Center, and at the paddle tennis courts.

Mr. Coghlan said the spring/summer brochure will be mailed out at the end of February.

c) Chairman

There was no Chairman report.

OTHER BUSINESS (TWO-THIRDS VOTE)

There was no Other Business to report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

NEXT MEETING: Regular Meeting February 24, 2010, 7:30 p.m. Darien Town Hall, Room 119

**** MR. GOODYEAR MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MR. HUNTER SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Marr
Telesco Secretarial Services

