

**TOWN OF DARIEN  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 16, 2016**

**ATTENDANCE:** Mary Flynn, Chair; Amy Doering, Mary Louise Morgan, Erika Morris, Dennis Conetta, Marc Ioli

**ABSENT:** Susan Daly, Lorene Bora, Kevin Webb

**STAFF:** Pamela Gery, Parks and Recreation Director

**AUDIENCE:** Adele Conniff, Chair RTM Parks and Recreation,  
Diane Conologue, Vice Chair RTM Parks and Recreation

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Flynn called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 10, 2016**

A few corrections were made to the minutes.

On page 1, in the paragraph under Discussion And Take Action On Little League Scoreboard, after the sentence ending with approval tonight on the fifth line, insert a sentence "Planning and Zoning had sent letters to the neighbors and had not received a reply."

**\*\* MS. DOERING MOVED TO APPROVE THE AMENDED MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 10, 2016**

**\*\* MS. MORGAN SECONDED.**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Flynn recommended that the Commission hold Public Comment at the beginning of each meeting. There will be a 2-minute limit and she requested speakers state their name and address.

She then asked for Public Comment and nobody came forward to speak.

### **DISCUSSION ON MASTER PLANNING INVENTORY**

The Commission discussed a draft of Park Inventory.

Ms. Doering asked if the Short Lane Acquisition should be included under Weed Beach. Under Baker Park change from Softball/Soccer Field to Baseball/Softball/Soccer field and the Commission agreed.

Mr. Conetta asked if land could be broken down to show usable vs. unusable land.

Ms. Morris referred to the Cherry Lawn Park listing and said there is a small stone bridge over the pond. The Commission noted there are actually two stone bridges and asked Ms. Gery to add them to the description.

Ms. Flynn suggested to add a listing of what activities go on at each park which could be helpful. She said this is a start and it will be discussed further at the next meeting.

### **DISCUSSION ON POSSIBLE COMMUNITY SIGN LOCATION**

Ms. Flynn said she and Ms. Gery met with Ms. Jayme Stevenson and had a discussion about finding an appropriate location in town for posting community signs. Organizational marketing signs used to be allowed on the Noroton Avenue bridge overpass, on State owned property. This is no longer allowed due to political signs being posted there.

Mr. Ioli suggested the dump and Ms. Flynn said this may be an option. Ms. Flynn said the Commission will have to look at this further.

### **DISCUSSION ON WEED BEACH EXPANSION PROJECT**

Committee chair Lorene Bora was absent. Ms. Flynn read a statement giving an update on the project.

Ms. Flynn thanked the Committee for one year of work.

Ms. Flynn said the final two Committee meetings were held March 1st and March 8th. She said the March 1st meeting was televised and can be seen online. Ms. Flynn said Weston and Sampson updated the plan after suggestions were made. Ms. Flynn said the Committee looked at the final plan, which included a seasonal pool, and took a vote on March 8th. The vote was 3-4 and since it was split the Committee could not make a recommendation to the Commission to go forward on the conceptual plan.

Ms. Flynn said at the April meeting Weston and Sampson will present to the Commission and then the Commission will vote to decide what will be forwarded to the Board of Selectmen. If The Board of Selectmen agrees with the concept plan as a positive addition to the Community they will create a Building Committee. The Building Committee will start a feasibility study as well as other studies that will address other questions the Community had inquired about.

### **DISCUSSION ON PARKS & RECREATION MISSION STATEMENT**

Ms. Flynn asked if the Commission could review the mission statement and make any suggestions at the next meeting.

### **DISCUSSION ON BEACH SAND BID**

Ms. Gery said she is reviewing the contract for sand. She said the Town had budgeted \$20,000 and asked the Commission if they would want to consider the possibility of putting some of the sand at Pear Tree Beach.

The Commission noted the approved Capital Request of Beach Sand was allocated to be used at Weed Beach only. The Commission would have to get approval from the Board of Selectman and Board of Finance if this is something we felt was necessary to do and the timing worked for this season.

### **REPORTS**

#### **Parks & Recreation Director and Assistant Director**

Ms. Gery reported that the park crew has been busy working on getting the beaches and fields ready for the busy spring and summer season. Spring and summer registrations are underway and there has been a noticeable increase in Paddle Hut rentals due to a department email blast marketing the facility.

Ms. Gery said the sale of beach permits has been brisk. While online sales are strong, she pointed out it does take the staff longer to process these beach permits due to the direct mail process that still needs to take place for each household.

A question arose about High School internships and Ms. Gery said she has two interns from Darien High School working in the department for approximately a month.

Ms. Gery read from Assistant Director Jim Coghlan's report. The paddle courts have seen an approximate 5% increase in play and revenue over last season and a 50% increase in play and a 102% increase in revenue over the 2011-2012 season. She stated they averaged 2.5 to 3 paddle tennis parties a month.

Ms. Gery referenced an 8 week Town employee fitness challenge that will end on April 4th. She said it has been a success and brought people together and said she will begin working on another one soon.

### **Parks & Recreation Chairman Report**

Ms. Flynn said there was an issue about a resident building a rock formation near the Weed Beach picnic area Parks Supervisor, Jim Flynn is aware of the situation and the building activity has stopped.

### **Weed Beach Committee Report**

No report was given.

Diane Conoloque wanted to ask a question and Ms. Flynn said public comment had already been held.

The next meeting will be April 20, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in room 119.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

- \*\* MR. CONETTA MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- \*\* MS. MORRIS SECONDED.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

G. Venuto  
Telesco Secretarial Services