

**TOWN OF DARIEN  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 19, 2016**

**ATTENDANCE:** Mary Flynn, Chair, Mary Louise Morgan, Erika Morris, Susan Daly, Lorena Bora, Amy Doering, Dennis Conetta, Marc Ioli, Jonathan England

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

**AUDIENCE:** Diane Conologue, Vice Chairman RTM Parks and Recreation Committee

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

Mrs. Flynn began the meeting by asking if there were any public comments. Diane Conologue questioned whether fascia boards, on the gazebo at Pear Tree Point Beach, would be painted green along with the rest of the gazebo as they were still grey when she last looked. She also inquired whether a white metal pole would be painted as well. Ms. Gery said she would look into this.

**APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup> MINUTES**

Commission members made a few minor corrections and approved September minutes.

**\*\* MS. MORRIS MOVED TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER AS AMENDED**

**\*\* MS. BORA SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**PARKS & RECREATION RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Ms. Gery explained to the Commission about the process of permitting Dinghies (Small Crafts) at Pear Tree. She said up to 30 Small Craft Storage Permits are available through the office for moored boat access. Permits are available to Darien residents who appear on the Harbor Master's Mooring List that is provided to the office each season. Stickers are \$55 each. Ms. Flynn mentioned the unsightly appearance of the small craft area and the metal bar they are attached to. Ms. Gery agreed and confirmed that once she was alerted about the seasonal process, she visited the site and counted 11 small crafts that had stickers and 14 that did not. Ms. Gery assured the Commission that next season a

sign will be posted and boats that do not have stickers will be ticketed and then removed by the park staff.

A lengthy discussion was then had regarding Private Instruction in the parks and how it is not clearly written in the Rules and Regulations on how the department handles this. Ms. Gery strongly disagrees with any private instructions taking place in Town parks without affiliation with the Parks & Recreation Department. Town facilities should not be used for private businesses to profit. Discussion ensued regarding the challenge of enforcement in most communities and the need for a clear written policy. Ms Daly re-read the statement in the Rules and Regulations and while the Commission agreed that it implies that a Private Instructor should get approval from the Park & Recreation Department; they also agreed it was not absolutely clear and should be re-written.

### **DISCUSSION AND TAKE ACTION ON PARKS MASTER PLAN**

Mrs. Flynn explained to the Commission that after witnessing the RTM's hesitation to approve the Police Departments request for body camera's halfway through the budget season, she met with Ms Gery and came up with an alternate proposal for the Commission to vote on. The Commission has three options: 1) Go to BOS and request funding of \$60,000-80,000 for RFP. 2) The money is requested in the 2017-18 budget and we push the project out 6 months. 3) Go to the BOS and then to the BOF and ask to move the \$70,000 in Capital funds for the Cherry Lawn basketball court we have set aside and reallocate to fund the Park Masterplan. Ms. Flynn also added that we have the additional \$25,000 in escrow for the Master Plan, which would give us \$95,000. Ms. Doering and Ms. Morris agreed that choice #3 was a sound plan and made the most cost effective sense.

**\*\* MS. BORA MOVED TO REQUEST A TRANSFER of \$70,000 FROM THE BASKETBALL COURT AT CHERRY LAWN PARK TO THE MASTER PARK PLAN RFP**

**\*\* MS. MORRIS SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. Flynn requested to add a Memorial Bench Proposal to the agenda.

### **MEMORIAL BENCH PROPOSAL**

Ms. Gery explained there have been numerous residents looking to donate either benches or trees in memory of a loved one. She looked into our current policy and researched other programs around the country and asked to establish a list of items that the Parks & Recreation Department offer residents. Costs would cover product, equipment, labor, supplies, and additional funds to maintain the project. Ms. Daly and Ms. Morgan liked the idea and offered to help Ms. Gery consolidate ideas they will propose the list to the full Commission when finished.

## **REPORTS**

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

Ms. Gery shared that she had a busy September reviewing applications for the Recreation Program Supervisor and Program Secretary. She announced that Pat Rossiter had accepted the position of Recreation Program Supervisor and he would be starting Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, 9 interviews had taken place for the part time Program Secretary opening and the interview panel had narrowed the choices down to three candidates. A final candidate will be decided on within a few days. She reported that Jim, Alicia and her have been busy with the software training and anticipate going live on December 16<sup>th</sup>.

Jim indicated that program participation is down approximately 20% when compared to last year but believes this can be attributed to the issues with the Post Office's mailing that did not send them to all households.

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

Ms. Flynn reported that town attorneys are looking into the situation on Fairmead Road and encroachment issues into Selleck's Woods Park.

The next meeting will be November 16th, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall in room 119.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Pamela Gery