

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
DECEMBER 9, 2013**

The regular monthly meeting of the Commission was held at Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Robert Ferrigno (Presiding)
Nicholas Bragano
Lee DeFusco

Kevin Bellows
Richard Moore
Nancy Walsh
Marie Petitti (7:06 p.m.)

Also,
Dmitri Paris, Parks Superintendent
Mary Markham, Recreation Director

Guests:
JoAnn Gregor, 277 Park Lane (TDOG Chairman)
Louise Nestor, 65 Woodridge (TDOG Treasurer)

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JoAnn Gregor and Louise Nestor, TDOG Organization:

At its October meeting the Commission voted to request the TDOG organization appear annually at a Park Commission meeting to present their Insurance Certificate, list of Board of Directors, Financials and Tax Information in compliance with the Facilities Use Policy.

Ms. Gregor presented the Organizations listing of its Board of Directors. She noted that they are covered under the Town's insurance policy. Ms. Nestor indicated she did not have their financials and tax information with her but will provide this information at our next meeting. Chairman requested they bring a copy of their Rules and Regulations as well.

Mr. Moore mentioned the repairs to their fence and that someone had reported a ragged edge.

Ms Gregor stated that the soil level at the base of their fence has settled considerably; and, they installed green plastic fencing around the bottom. TDOG takes care of the inside of the fence. They were to have wood chips delivered but the truck could not gain access through the locked roadway entrance gate.

Mr. Moore noted when they are looking for a wood chips delivery, free wood chips are available through Craig's List. They should order and make arrangements through the Parks Department for delivery access.

MOTION by Dr. Bellows, second Mr. DeFusco, unanimously passed to close the Guest portion of the Agenda.

Election of Officers:

MOTION by Mrs. Walsh, second by Mr. Moore, unanimously passed nominating Robert Ferrigno to continue as Chairman. Vote unanimously in favor.

MOTION by Mr. Bragano, second by Mr. DeFusco, unanimously passed nominating Kevin Bellows as Vice Chairman. Vote unanimously in favor.

MOTION by Mr. Moore, second by Mr. Bragano, unanimously passed adopting the second Monday of each month as the regular meeting date for the Parks and Recreation Commission Meetings for 2013, with meetings being held the following Monday, or a date to be determined, if the regular meeting date falls on a holiday or must necessarily be rescheduled.

MOTION by Mrs. Walsh, second by Mr. DeFusco, unanimously passed approving the minutes of the November 18, 2013 meeting as distributed.

Budget Review:

Superintendent reported that budget preparation is currently being worked internally. No mandates have come to departments from the administration at this point in the process. He is attempting to restore and reauthorize our budget to the level of the 2011/2012 budget, particularly mentioning the overtime allocation which impacts a maintenance department as Parks.

Recreation Director said the Recreation portion of the budget only changes at the Civil Service/Union salaries level. The balance is programs, supplies and mileage.

Mr. Moore questioned the Parks Stickers distribution as there was previous discussion on possibly charging a small fee for stickers and administration of the program once the 2013 trial program passed. At that time an amount of a \$5 fee was discussed.

Superintendent stated if an amount for stickers were added to the current 2014/15 budget preparation, program would begin the spring of 2015. If we decide to provide stickers this coming 2014 spring, a special appropriation request would be required to have funds in time for this coming spring's distribution.

Discussion:

The 2012/2013 Trial Sticker Program was successful in that once Rangers made notice to vehicles parked without stickers, out of 1600 notices only 400 residents came in for stickers (1,200 were considered non-residents). Cost for trial program was absorbed by Parks Department budget.

Discussion on Projected costs:

Sticker in range of \$1.50 x 8,000 anticipated need	= \$12,000.
One employee - \$400 per week at 12 weeks	= \$ 4,800.
Total	<u>\$ 16,800.</u>

Consensus of the Commission is for the Chairman to discuss with the First Selectman the sticker distribution program to be provided either by fee or by special appropriation for upcoming spring; and, inclusion in budget for spring of 2015.

Chairman noted that the summer Town Hall Green Concert Program received \$5,000 and the Teen Center \$1,000 from the Mallett Charitable Trust.

Dr. Bellows reported that the CIAC Championship games were held at the THS complex.

Superintendent answered upon question that the THS/Hillcrest Fields Maintenance Contract has been awarded to the low bidder, Tarrantino. He noted that this year's bid specifications incorporated costs for repairs so that these costs are fixed going into the season.

Superintendent's Report:

First round of the Twin Brook's restoration is completed. It was a very good project. He will provide the Commission with a detailed written report at our next meeting.

Mr. DeFusco reported that even though a dry season, there is about 8/10 inches of water in the renovated Beach Park skating pond at the Hedgehog Road Circle entrance area.

MOTION to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. by Mr. DeFusco, second Mr. Moore, unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan E. Plouffe,
Clerical Administrative Asst.

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