

City of Middletown
Parks & Recreation Department
100 Riverview Center
Suite 140
Middletown, Connecticut 06457

Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes of February 4, 2010
Held at the Recreation Department Office at 100 Riverview Center

Present: Commissioners Gerry Winzer, Thomas D'Aquila, Phil Pessina, Anthony Jaskot and Rick Romano. Director Raymond Santostefano, Superintendent John Milardo representing the Parks & Recreation Department.

Absent: Commissioners Jones. Commissioner Serra arrived at 7:22 p.m.

Call: Chairman Winzer called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, in the main room of the Recreation Office, at 100 Riverview Center, Suite 140.

Public Hearing: None

Minutes: Chairman Winzer requested a motion be made accepting the Parks and Recreation Commission minutes of January 7, 2010. Commissioner Romano accepted. Commissioner Pessina seconded the motion. Commissioner Jones indicated by e-mail that there were two (2) corrections under Public Hearing to be amended. Under the Public Hearing, Dave Derita's last name was spelled incorrectly. Also, it states that the commissioners advise him to coordinate the details with Superintendent Milardo, when it should read coordinate the details with Superintendent Milardo and Anissa Ladd and if the fields are available he can use them for the Ct. Eliminators Tournament.

Vote: The January 7, 2010 Parks & Recreation Commission minutes were unanimously approved.

Department Reports: Director Santostefano stated that the Recreation Department received thank you letters from parents whose children received Christmas gifts. He updated the commissioners regarding the Recreation Department's activities in progress and stated that the spring/summer brochure should be completed by next week. Director Santostefano updated the commissioners regarding the Parks Department maintenance list.

Superintendent Milardo briefly explained an issue at Veteran's Park regarding ice skating. He stated that the Water and Sewer Department will have to dig and cap the pipe to stop water drainage and prevent water leakage.

Correspondence: Director Santostefano stated that the Activity/Checking Account had no activity.

Miscellaneous: Director Santostefano spoke about the status of the skateboard park which will be located on the corner of DeKoven Drive and Green Street (the old Ferry Street playground).

Director Santostefano stated that Commissioner D'Aquila made mention of numerous vehicles parking at Five (5) Guys Burgers and Fries. He suggested posting a sign on Bernie O'Rourke Drive that would read "Park at your own Risk."

Old Business: Director Santostefano spoke about appearing before the Personnel Review Committee regarding the reorganization, which would involve combining Parks and Recreation, Arts and Culture, Youth Services and the Senior Center into one (1) department.

Director Santostefano discussed the Board of Education's Summer Academic Enrichment Program and stated that the Recreation Division proposed running the program for the Board of Education at Spencer School. The Board of Education has refused to respond to this proposal.

Superintendent Milardo distributed copies of the Parks and Recreation Ordinance to the commissioners to review.

Discussion: The revisions of the Parks and Recreation Ordinance were discussed in detail and the necessary corrections were made for resubmission.

Motion: Commissioner Pessina made a motion to send back the Park and Recreation Ordinance revisions to ordinance study. Commissioner Jaskot seconded the motion. Commissioner Serra abstained.

Vote: The vote was unanimously approved.

New Business: Jim Sipperly, Water and Sewer Departmental Resource Specialist, stated that there has been a parking issue at Harbor Park and proposed solutions to rectify the problem. He suggested extending the parking area by removing trees and possibly allowing a food vendor to be stationed in the area for patrons.

Guy Russo, Director of Water and Sewer, stated that The Harbor Improvement Agency recommended improving access to the harbor for boating purposes and the public.

Jim Sipperly spoke about the Harbor Park tunnel access for ADA per The Harbor Improvement Agency. He stated that since improvements to the Melilli Plaza parking lot have been discussed at the Urban Forestry Commission, improvements to the Harbor Park tunnel for access purposes could be included as well.

Jim Sipperly discussed expanding the activities that could take place at the proposed Ct. River Festival in September of 2010. He suggested boat racing (hydroplanes) and other numerous activities. He also stated that entrance fees could possibly apply.

Director Santostefano stated that the proposed skateboard park on the corner of DeKoven Drive and Green Street lot (the old Ferry Street playground) will be named in honor of Willie Pep per the request of Mayor Giuliano.

Motion: Commissioner Pessina made a motion to name the park on the corner of DeKoven Drive and Green Street lot (the old Ferry Street playground) in honor of Willie Pep. Commissioner Jaskot seconded the motion.

Vote: The vote was unanimously approved.

Discussion: The commissioners had a discussion regarding the details of the Ct. River Festival in September of 2010. Superintendent Milardo was asked about the status of the Palmer Field scoreboard.

Miscellaneous: None

Adjournment: Commissioner Romano made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Pessina. It was a unanimous vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Lori A. Marcati

cc Mayor Sebastian Giuliano