

**DARIEN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2015  
WEED BEACH PADDLE HUT**

ATTENDANCE: Mary Flynn, Chair; Lorene Bora; Amy Doering; Marc Ioli;  
Mary Louise Morgan; Kevin Webb (7:42 p.m.)

STAFF: Pamela Gery, Director, Parks and Recreation

OTHERS: Emily Murphy D'Andrea; Irene Troutmann; Meg Orner;  
Karen Hukan; Cheryl Russell

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Flynn called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF JULY 15, 2015**

Page 1: Correct spelling of Mr. Ioli's name.

Page 2: fifth paragraph should read as follows:

Ms. Burgess outlined the current session enrollment and mentioned her explanation of declining enrollment due to a transition from Opti to 420. She added that there are other interests such as stand up paddle and water based program offerings by private clubs and camps.

Page 3: first paragraph should read as follows:

Ms. Bora received one RFP and stated that the RFP is going to be re-issued to see if they can get more responses. It was noted that a detailed report with more information will be presented at the next meeting.

**\*\* MR. IOLI MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS AMENDED  
\*\* MS. BORA SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**DISCUSSION AND TAKE ACTION ON BENCH DONATION FOR WOODLAND PARK**

Ms. Troutmann, Ms. Orner and Ms. Hugan presented their proposal to donate a bench in Woodland Park in memory of Patricia Dailey.

Mr. Webb joined the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Ms. Doering asked if there would be a plaque on the bench. A plaque will be mounted in the back of the bench. This will be the third bench in the park with a plaque.

- \*\* MS. DOERING MOVED TO APPROVE THE BENCH DONATION FOR WOODLAND PARK**
- \*\* MS. MORGAN SECONDED**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**DISCUSSION AND TAKE ACTION ON TREE DONATION FOR CHERRY LAWN PARK**

Ms. Murphy D'Andrea explained that the City of New Haven is working on replenishing their elm trees that were decimated by Dutch Elm disease. They are offering seedlings and the Darien Garden Club is waiting to hear how many they will receive.

Ms. Murphy D'Andrea said that they will work with Ms. Gery and Mr. Coghlan to determine the location.

Ms. Murphy D'Andrea said that the Darien Garden Club planted 3,000 daffodils last year, and planted them 10 feet apart, so that they would not be mowed. They were mowed and she hopes they will come back next year. She said that the Garden Club will fundraise to plant more daffodils.

The Commissioners agreed that they loved the daffodils. Ms. Murphy D'Andrea said that the Garden Club maintains all of their plants. She reviewed the planting plan and said that she will be in touch with Ms. Gery.

Ms. Flynn thanked the Darien Garden Club and expressed the gratitude of the Commission.

**DISCUSSION AND FOLLOW UP REPORT ON DJST PROGRAM FOR SUMMER 2015**

Ms. Flynn explained that the DJST presented their budget at last month's meeting and they should a considerable loss for last year. She said that they gave some indication of

their numbers, but do not have exact numbers yet. Since they were unable to attend this evening's meeting, Ms. Flynn suggested tabling this item until October. She said that Ms. Gery can meet with them and then report back to this Commission in October.

**DISCUSSION AND TAKE ACTION ON WEED BEACH 2 ARCHITECT  
INTERVIEW**

Ms. Bora explained that the Weed Beach Committee met last night. She said that the Committee recommended retaining Weston & Sampson. She said that all of the architectural firms were competent, but they knew the project and had been to the property. They showed great enthusiasm for the project and are going to represent the Commission and the Committee well by seeking input from various groups.

Ms. Bora described the Weed Beach project and said that the bid is \$20,900 for their work. Ms. Flynn said that Weston & Sampson will work with the Committee and hold public hearings to engage the public. Once they have adequate responses they will create preliminary drawings.

- \*\* MR. IOLI MOVED TO RETAIN WESTON & SAMPSON AS THE  
ARCHITECT FOR THE WEED BEACH 2 PROJECT**
- \*\* MS. MORGAN SECONDED**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**REPORTS:**

a. Parks and Recreation Director

Ms. Gery reviewed her written report dated September 9, 2015. She also reported that an incident took place yesterday at Cherry Lawn. A gentleman witnessed a child fall into the pond, after being knocked over by a dog. Ms. Flynn said that this is something that needs to be looked into and they may need to re-visit dogs at Cherry Lawn, especially when it is busy and active.

Ms. Flynn suggested that Ms. Gery notify the Town Counsel to determine if there is anything that needs to be done about this.

b. Parks and Recreation Chairman

Ms. Flynn reported that Planning and Zoning met last night to discuss the infrastructure section of the Town plan. Parks and Recreation needs to do a full plan in the spring. They also discussed creating a town pool. She said that she met with Planning and Zoning to explore if there are pool options at the Diller property. Ms. Flynn said that a pool is a high priority.

Mr. Ioli said that he attended the town band concert and it was well attended.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Russell said that 5 – 6 years ago a group came to the Commission regarding putting a pool on the Dillard property, but the property was determined to be too wet. She said that there is a stream on the property.

Ms. Russell said that people are complaining about bees at the beaches and asked if Ms. Gery could have the containers replaced.

Ms. Russell said that the guard at Pear Tree this summer was very pleasant and nice. She said that it was a pleasant summer because there were no dogs there.

**ADJOURN MEETING**

**\*\* MS. DOERING MOVED TO ADJOURN  
\*\* MS. BORA SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi  
Telesco Secretarial Services