

**TOWN OF DARIEN
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2011**

ATTENDANCE: Acting Chairperson Susan Daly; Charlie Goodyear;
Andy Hunter; Mary Flynn; Erika Morris; Bob Marchesi;
Susan Graham (7:38 p.m.)

STAFF: Susan Swiatek, Director; Jim Coghlan, Assistant Director

OTHER:

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chairperson Daly called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 19, 2011

The changes to the minutes of the regular meeting of October 19, 2011 are as follows:

On page 2, under REPORTS, a) Director, 2nd paragraph, the 1st sentence should read:
“She said she attended a second hearing in Hartford for an FOI complaint related to the deer cull, and they will issue a ruling within 2 months.”

- ** MR. GOODYEAR MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 19, 2011 AS AMENDED.**
- ** MS. FLYNN SECONDED.**
- ** MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE (5) VOTES IN FAVOR (DALY, FLYNN, GOODYEAR, HUNTER, MORRIS) AND ONE (1) VOTE ABSTAINED (MARCHESI).**

Ms. Graham arrived at 7:38 p.m.

UPDATE ON WEED BEACH MASTER PLAN PROJECT

Ms. Swiatek said the walls of the warming hut are framed out, the decking is framed, and the materials for the roof were delivered yesterday. She said the project is moving along very quickly, and there have been positive reports about the crew and the construction company. She noted that the owner's rep, John Ryan, has been very thorough regarding keeping change orders down. She said the sewer lines are being laid down, and there has been some discussion about change orders for the facilities. She said she requested

internet connections to be installed while things are under construction. She said they are also bringing in a conduit for cable in the future.

Ms. Swiatek said the Garden Club is planning on making a sizable donation to the project and has selected the gatehouse and sign area to be the location of their gift(s). She said the Garden Club has been working with the Town's engineering team to design a plan. The Town will see a small credit for the plants that they had planned to put in. One change order includes adding more decking at the warming hut between the courts where the aluminum stairways are. The project appears to be on track for its targeted April completion date.

BUDGET PROPOSAL FISCAL 2013

Ms. Swiatek said there will be some changes and tweaks to the operating budget related to the Weed Beach project. The cost to provide more propane should hopefully be offset with revenue. There will be some changes to the sailing building, and she said she is working with the sailing group, which may have funds for a repair plan. She is on the third quote, and she has done an oil repair and replacement, as well as propane and electric.

REPORTS

a) Director

Ms. Swiatek read from her provided report, saying that they are now in full operation with its maintenance staff for the first time in a long time. They now employ a turf maintainer who has and will continue to attend related classes. The sod has been torn off of the infield at Baker Park, and new sod will go down next Monday.

Ms. Swiatek explained that the deer cull has been suspended while they invest liability issues. Mr. Goodyear offered some information related to this, saying that over the last 5 years, they had been advised by Town Counsel that the deer people had insurance. The insurance glitch came up as a result of a complaint related to the Friends of Animals. It should not be taken as a victory for the Friends of Animals. The Deer Management Committee does not have coverage under the Town's insurance.

Ms. Swiatek said that the Eagle Scout project has been completed by Scout Alex Von Stuelpnagel under the direction of Mr. Jim Flynn. The maintenance crew has begun to restore a drainage swale along the field edge at the same time to help with field drainage. Work on the gas line at Town Hall has been completed. They are still working on tree cleanup.

b) Assistant Director

Mr. Coghlan said the registration graphs show the winter program registration. Classes start in December/January. He said it is the least populated season, but compared to the last few years, they have the most participants ever. The paddle season is off to a good start, and the block revenue is up 31% from last year. The money that they collect daily for last minute reservations is up 21% from last year. The lessons are up 78% from last year. For the first time, they have offered lessons to children in the late mornings and early afternoons on the weekends.

c) Chairman

There was no Chairman's Report.

d) Sub-Committee

Ms. Morris said she has reviewed the dog maps for the different parks. The signs are in and look great. Ms. Swiatek has met with Mr. Jim Flynn to review and plan the installation of the signs. She said they discussed putting the signs on the sign post at the backfield, as well as on sign posts that have dog bags. The dog bags at Cherry Lawn Park will be relocated. It was mentioned that they are putting in a sewer line connection as well as a conduit for electricity and water at the boat club at Pear Tree Point.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS (TWO THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED)

**** MS. MORRIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ADDITION OF THE TILLEY POND ITEM TO THE AGENDA.**

**** MS. FLYNN SECONDED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Morris said that Ms. Susan Young has stepped down from her role as the Chair of the Friends of Tilley Pond Park, and Ms. Tallie MacDonald is her replacement. She has had M. David May, a Master Gardener, do an assessment of the area. There is \$500 in the account for Tilley Pond, and the first thing they would like to improve is the sidewalk in the park by Lakeside Drive. Ms. Swiatek confirmed that is within the Parks & Recreation Department's budget. It was mentioned that Ms. Young had shared the Master Plan with Ms. MacDonald.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURN MEETING

- ** MS. FLYNN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** MS. MORRIS SECONDED.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting ended at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Marr
Telesco Secretarial Services

NEXT MEETING: Regular Meeting December 14, 2011 7:30 p.m.
Darien Town Hall, Room 119