

**TOWN OF DARIEN, CT
RTM PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

DRAFT

MEETING DATE: May 2, 2011

ATTENDEES: Chair Cheryl Russell, Adele Conniff, Mark Daily, Lucy Fiore, Joseph Hardison III, Andy Millar, John McLean, Gary Swenson

ABSENT: Robert Cardone, Michael D'Urso, James Howe, Tony Imbimbo, Cecelia Mundt, Peter Nelson

VISITORS: Susan Swiatek, Director, Parks & Recreation Department (part time), Patti Bumgardner, Darien Dog Owners Group (part time)

MEETING MINUTES:

With 8 of 14 members present, the meeting was called to order at approximately 7:35pm by Chairman Russell. A quorum for the meeting was met.

Two new members, Lucy Fiore (District IV) and James Hardison III (also District IV) were introduced.

AGENDA ITEM 1: Discuss and vote to accept the gift of fitness trail equipment from Pioneering Healthy Communities Initiative, value up to \$50,000.

Members felt the email of 4/29/11 from James R. Palen to Susan Swiatek addressed questions previously raised by the Committee. The agenda item was moved, seconded and approved unanimously by the Committee with thanks.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Discuss and vote on the Parks and Recreation Operating and Capital section of the Town of Darien 2011-2012 budget.

In response to questions, Ms. Swiatek indicated that for the third consecutive year, there were no new initiatives in the 2011 Parks & Rec budget. The Committee noted the Parks & Rec Department generates over \$360,000 revenue to the Town in the form of various user fees and permits. The Committee also expressed concern about the lack of new sand for the town beaches: 4 years without replacement for Pear Tree Beach and 3 years for Weed Beach.

The agenda item was moved, seconded and approved unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 3. Approve minutes of Committee meeting of January 10, 2011

The agenda item was moved, seconded and approved with 6 in favor, 2 abstaining. The 2 abstentions were cast by the 2 new members (Fiore and Haridson) who were not members of the Committee in January and therefore felt unqualified to vote on the minutes.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Chairman's report

Ms Russell provided updates on the following:

- Planned improvements at Weed Beach, including Paddle Tennis warming hut, moving of Guardhouse, and anticipated plantings along the access road by the Garden Club
- Update on the proposed dog leash law

At approximately 8:40pm, the meeting was adjourned.