

Town of Darien, CT
RTM Parks & recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

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Meeting Date: September 12, 2011 7:30 pm

Attendees: Chair Cheryl Russell, vice Chair Adele Coniff, Mark Dailey, James Howe, Anthony Imbimbo, John McLean, Robert Cardone, Cecelia Mundt, Peter Nelson, Gary Swanson, Lucy Fiore & Jay Hardison III.

Absent: Andrew Millar, Michael D'urso

Visitors: Jerry Kutz Fleet Captain, and Commodore Chris Mangan from the Darien Boat Club and a reporter from the Darien News Review.

Minutes: With 12 members present, a quorum for the meeting was met. The meeting was called to order, at approximately 7:40 by Chairwoman Russell. Mr Swanson had to leave the meeting to attend the Rules Committee meeting. He requested to be notified when we were to vote on the Animal Control Ordinance.

Agenda Item 1: Discuss and Vote on the changes to the Darien Boat Club lease. Many questions were asked about the boat club waiting list, however the committee is only involved in the lease aspect of the Boat Club By- laws. Chairman Russell requested that the RTM be included in Amendments when they occur. Fleet Captain, Darien Boat Club Jerry Kutz agreed. Peter Nelson made the motion saying "We approve the Amendments to The Darien Boat Club lease as written" Mr Dailey seconded the motion. 11 in favor, one NO vote by Mr Jay Hardison III. Mr. Hardison left to attend another meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Discuss and Vote on the Animal Control Ordinance from the TGS&A Committee. Many questions and concerns that this ordinance overrides all of the Parks and Receptions Commissions work. The ordinance is not specific and says nothing about the Towns parks and beaches. Some members felt that this ordinance is for everywhere else in town and has nothing to do with beaches or parks however, some members felt the way it is written is misleading and conflicting with the laws. Chairman Russell contacted Town Council Ed Schmidt , and Council says this ordinance does not override the Commission. Cecelia Mundt requested to have it noted in the minutes that the members of the RTM Parks & Recreation Committee know this does not override what the Commission has done with the Darien Leash Laws and this ordinance will not override Commission authority.

Motion from Adele Coniff to approve the ordinance as written, James Howe second the motion. 8 votes in favor, 3 votes against.. Due to the fact that we voted without Mr Swenson, we voted to rescind our vote and revote with Mr. Swenson present.

Agenda item 3: Approve minutes of May 2, 2011 meeting. No one received copies of the minutes or remember receiving copies of the minutes so this set for next meeting.

Agenda Item 4: Chairman's Report. James Howe gave a report on construction and renovation project at Weed Beach. Mr. Howe says everything is on track and on plan.

Chairman Russell is going to ask the Parks & Recreation Commission to include in its budget next year, monies to get an extended or larger fence at Pear Tree. This will aid the Commission with its rule of NO DOGS at Pear Tree Beach all year long. Dogs are also not permitted at Weed Beach. Chairman Russell says citizens continue to park at the beach and walk their dogs through the sand where they relieve themselves, creating a health hazard.

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 pm

James Howe