

WOODBIDGE RECREATION DEPARTMENT

John Adamovich – Recreation Director

11 Meetinghouse Lane
Woodbridge, CT 06525
203-389-3446

RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES Monday, October 27, 2008

PRESENT:

Commission Members: Steve Conn, Stan Gedansky, Michael Helfenbein, Janet Hershman, Robert Hill, Dwight Rowland, and Andrea Weinstein

Staff: John Adamovich, Recreation Director; Theresa I. Burr-Bahner, Pool Director

Board of Selectmen Liaison: Dr. James Sabshin

Guest: Lochlin Reidy; WAC Liaison, Diane King; Yoga Instructor, Teri Schatz, and Colleen Inclima

Recorder: Jim Franco, Office Manager

Meeting Called to Order: 7:03 PM

Old Business

1. Public Comments – Diane King makes a plea to the Recreation Commission to support the yoga program. They will be moved out of room 16 for 2 months for file cabinet storage from another department. This will occur after this current session ends on November 26th. Diane stresses how both her program and Bill Banick's program are important to health and wellness, especially for those over 50. John mentions that room 16 was chosen because of the steel beams that reinforce that room. The former Superintendent's and Business offices were offered. If the fitness room is moved over to the former firehouse, that will open up two rooms, the same size as room 16, for fitness. The Business Office as it is does not have enough room for the yoga program. Dwight mentions that the wall can be removed.

2. Playground proposal – Teri Schatz and Colleen Inclima made a presentation for a public playground similar to those in Cheshire, Hamden, and Bethany. They stressed that it be above the age of toddler and be accessible to all children. The Pease Rd facility would be the best location. They mention trying to obtain a STEEP grant for funding. They are looking at play systems for 2 to 5 year olds, and 5 to 11 year olds. Michael Helfenbein brings up parking concern. It was then mentioned to put the structure at the end where the football field was going to go, so that the students would be

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crossing a grass area to get to the soccer fields, instead of a parking lot. Michael had 3 concerns: 1) space of the structure 2) cost 3) formula school to usage. They are looking to accommodate 100 children. Bethany's accommodates up to 120 children. They are looking into grants for the project. They refer to look at the set up of the Mary L. Tracy playground in Orange. The Land Trust will need to be contacted about the area that is being looked into. An ADA compliant structure and picnic area will be looked into as part of the project. The project will need to go to the Land Trust and Selectmen. They are looking at the rubberized drainable surface. They mention how that there will be ramps for wheelchairs. Theresa mentions to approach the ADA board in Hartford. Also, that there might be some Federal or State grants available if the structure had Braille sensory boards. The Board of Selectmen would need to approve the project in order to do the grants.

3. Minutes - Janet Hershman made a motion to approve the minutes of Monday, September 22, 2008. Steve Conn seconded the motion. Steve Conn, Stan Gedansky, Michael Helfenbein, Janet Hershman, and Andrea Weinstein voted in favor, Bob Hill, and Dwight Rowland, abstained.
4. Pool: - A) The first part of the survey is complete. Theresa will have the results at the next meeting. They received all 4's and 5's. 5's being the highest. Nametags were one suggestion. The same child has been having the same instructor. Theresa mentions that she has a very good staff. B) The pool lift has arrived. Theresa thanks Brad for doing the measurements for the project. Theresa, Chris, John, and John-Michael will be the first trained on how to use the lift. The cost of the project was \$6000.00, purchased with by the Recreation Department and the School. It is a chair with arms, back brace and spinal chord lift. It can accommodate up to 500 pounds. It is portable and re-chargeable. C) WAC will be hosting swim meets on November 1st and November 9th. Loch mentions defibrillator training. Also, a request came up for a reduced membership for 6 families in need. Finally, WAC would like to start an Adult Fitness Program in conjuncture with the Recreation Department. A 45 minute/ 1 hour evening swim program. One lane could be set aside during evening swim. D) Janet refers to the questionnaires and wonders if we could expand to all the programs. A suggestion box and/or and online form was brought up.
5. Diving Board update.- The Town is waiting to see if the pool will be functional after December 20th. Brad has filed for an extension with QVHD concerning the drain covers. Theresa mentions how Leslie Pool Company certifies pools. We are gravity fed, L shaped. It is a more reliable system. Brad is on top of it.

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6. Personnel – Will Conway, Christina Rully, Jesse Ulrich, James Schoppman, Connor Doolan, and Bradley Hauben were recommend by Theresa Burr-Bahner for lifeguards/swim instructors. Dwight inquires about the criteria in becoming a swim instructor. Swim instructors are done by reference. Theresa lists: 1) How they feel about children 2) Need to know how to swim 3) swim test 4) personality, how they work with young children. Dwight Rowland made a motion to approve Theresa's recommendations. Andrea Weinstein seconded. All were in favor. Alexander Carpenter and Sam Davis were recommended by John Adamovich as Sports Leader. Dwight Rowland made a motion to approve John Adamovich's recommendations and Janet Hershman seconded it. All were in favor.

6. Fitness Room: Fine; Rob does a great job. The equipment that Hubbell donated is great.

7. Outdoor Facilities -- A) Walking trails: Are fine; even after the weekend's storm. The Running Club ends this Friday, November 7th, with its Walking Trail to Beecher walk. -B) Multi-Purpose: Great shape. The field switch suggestion is working out great. -C) Baseball – 90 foot diamond out of the plans for the Massaro property. That will be used for farm land. Alegi property is the only possibility, but there is a 10 foot slope. The High School and JCC plans are out. Bob mentions that there are more children in the Bethany and Orange programs. This suggests that there may be no place for the Woodbridge children to play in the near future. Stan mentions that in 1974, all earth moving was offered for free on the Fitzgerald property. D) Skating Rink- Adam will put together a proposal for the November meeting. The existing rink needs to be removed. It needs to be leveled, and then rebuilt. It will be sealed. It will not be a porta-rink. John mentions that he phoned the towns that had those rinks and they look fine in the beginning, but they rip, and are very hard to maintain.

9. Tennis Courts – Lessons just came to a completion. The nets will be up until Thanksgiving.

10. Road Race – Stan mentions a thank you to the Fire Department and Kathy Adamovich. A. Food and Fuel donation. John Adamovich made a request for \$5,000 to be donated to the Food & Fuel Fund. After a discussion over the amount to donate, Dwight Rowland made a motion to donate \$3000 from the Road Race account to the Woodbridge Food & Fuel Fund. Bob Hill seconded the motion. All were in favor.

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11. Summer Concerts: Recreation will be taking over the Summer Concerts. The Tuesday dates are July 7, 14, 21, and 28. Dwight asks, can it be a different night and would like to see a sub committee formed. Stan had concerns over the program's budget. Jim mentions how the funds come from donations.

12. Ex-Firehouse Use - James Sabshin mentions that there may be space for the fitness room over there.

13. Room 16 update – addressed earlier in Public Comments.

New Business:

1. Financial – Director's Report, Budget Report:- We are at 38.8%. Last year we were at 42.6%. A Revenue Statement was included. We are at \$85,473.64. Jim states that this does not include the differed revenue, which was collected before July 1, but applies to this fiscal year.

2. Programs: We have over 200 in our fall program.

3. Correspondence: - A) Dwight Rowland made a motion to accept Paul Mengold's Amity's Spring Softball Field request for Center Field. Bob Hill seconded the motion. All were in favor. B) WFBL letter regarding their \$3000 contribution for the conversion to 50'/70' fields at Acorn Hill. C) Game Breaker Lacrosse camp summer field request. West River was recommended as its location, so that there would not be a strain on the soccer fields at Pease Rd. However, this item was then tabled because more information is needed.

4 Other: A) Bob was asked about the shelter at the walking path. He has not heard back from the Eagle Scout about that project. B) Capital Budget included in packet. The skating rink's cost was brought up around \$8500. 60% would be fund raising. C) Meeting for next year was included. It was suggested that August 31st be the Rec. meeting instead of August 24th. Also, suggested is an early December meeting instead of a November meeting. This goes for our next meeting as well. December 1st, 2008 will be the next meeting instead of November 24th because that is the week of Thanksgiving. D.) A concern of bees at the end of fences was mentioned. A suggestion of foam insulation was mentioned as a possible solution. John will talk to Adam and get his input on bee solutions.

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Meeting Adjourned – 8:55 pm.

Next Meeting – December 1, 2008, at 7:00 P.M., Beecher South Assembly Room.