

City of Middletown
Parks & Recreation Department
100 Riverview Center
Suite 140
Middletown, Connecticut 06457

Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes of March 1, 2012
Held at the Recreation Department Office at 100 Riverview Center

Present: Commissioners Gerry Winzer, Phil Pessina, Todd Berch and Ricky Romano. Student Representative Malcolm Alleyne. Director Raymond Santostefano, Superintendent's John Milardo and Raymond Jacobs, representing the Parks and Recreation Department.

Also present two members of the public and Joseph Samolis, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office.

Absent: Commissioners Tom D'Aquila, Tony Jaskot, Sheila Jones and Student Representative Dhruvi Patel.

Call: Chairman Winzer called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, in the main room of the Recreation Office, at 100 Riverview Center, Suite 140.

Public Hearing: Lisa Santangelo spoke as Vice Chairman of the Friends of Russell Library in favor of the public putting signs on the city parks property. This is important to the Russell Library annual book sale.

Ken McClellan spoke as a member of the Council of Veterans, he stated with proper care and respect to the memorial the Veterans do not have a problem with the public putting up appropriate signs on the park property.

Minutes: Chairman Winzer requested a motion be made accepting the Parks and Recreation Commission minutes of February 2, 2012. Commissioner Romano accepted. Commissioner Pessina seconded the motion.

Vote: The Parks & Recreation Commission minutes were unanimously approved.

Correspondence: Director Santostefano reported that there were numerous responses to the postcards which were sent to advise the public that the brochure is now online. Some people requested the brochures be mailed to them. Director Santostefano also acknowledged the positive correspondence with regard to the Unified Theater program which was well received and attended by the Mayor.

Department Reports: Director Santostefano discussed several issues with regard to the parks including the dock repairs at our shop which saved significant money; there was no skating this year because of the warm weather – similar to other communities. The rink has been taken down and is in storage; crews were working at Palmer Field, Vinal and cleaned Harbor Park north of the tunnel; Superintendent Milardo met with all of the leagues in February about use of the fields; broken pickets were repaired at the gazebo; Middletown Youth Soccer

installed lights at Country Club Road and they will be responsible for paying the utility bills. John Hall stated that the lights cost approximately \$243 per hour at Palmer Field; Benches were installed at Macdonough for the parents; the two grinder pumps at Crystal Lake were purchased in 1993 and were being evaluated with the help of the Water and Sewer Department; snow removal exhausted all overtime money; the lights were fixed at Union Park.

Director Santostefano reported on the postcards which were sent to every household to advise that the brochure is online. There is no funding for mailing the brochure; Hoops and More had 40 participants; Penguin Plunge was very successful; Unified Theater was a great success; Inclusion program offers baking, bowling and programs at MARC; flag football will be offered this year at Snow School – run by the recreation staff; adult exercise, weightlifting and many other programs offered in the brochure; a monthly flyer goes out to all the school children; Prof Gallitto Basketball Tournament had excellent attendance, the Mayor was present; Prof Gallitto Basketball All-Stars is this weekend; April 22nd there will be a game against the Harlem Rockets and the Parks and Recreation Dream team; summer camps are filling up.

Chairman Winzer and Commissioner Romano spoke about the brochure being available in the Mayor's Office and other locations, this is being done.

Old Business: None

New Business: Chairman Winzer spoke about the revision to 214-12 of the Middletown Code of Ordinances, Notices and Signs. Commissioner Berch reviewed and presented the new language and discussed the difference with the current language. A lengthy discussion was conducted between all members and Joe Samolis, Chief of Staff of the Mayor's Office, Director Santostefano, Superintendents Milardo and Jacobs. All departments of the City, Agencies, Boards or Commissions, including the Russell Library would need to come to the Parks and Recreation Commission for approval to place a sign on City park property. A discussion about what was legal and what would open the Commission up to lawsuits was conducted. Clarification on what the intent of this new language took place. It was also discussed how difficult it is to monitor once signs were put up. Director Santostefano read the minutes from November 3, 2011 when this issue was originally voted on. Concern over City sponsored agencies and non-profit agencies was discussed. Commissioner Romano wanted to know why we needed to change the existing language because presently everyone is required to come to the Commission to get permission to place a sign on City park property.

Motion: Commissioner Berch made a motion to accept the new language as outlined in the attached Ordinance. Commissioner Pessina seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion was voted on with Commissioner Berch and Pessina voting Aye and Commissioner Romano and Winzer, Nay. The motion does not pass.

Director Santostefano reports that Connecticut Trees of Honor will hopefully be planted at Veteran's Memorial Park where the old skating rink was. "Blue Star Moms" would be funding this project. Veterans met with Bill Warner to discuss this. There will be 62 trees representing fallen soldiers with a reflection pool.

Motion: Commissioner Berch made a motion to accept the 62 trees and reflection pool being installed at Veteran's Memorial Park. Commissioner Pessina seconded the motion.

Vote: The vote was unanimously approved

Miscellaneous: Commissioner Berch spoke about the CIAC tournament. He inquired about advertising for the tournament and requiring CIAC to use Jim Bransfield as the announcer. Commissioner Berch was advised that the CIAC rents out the facilities, does their own advertising and hires their own staff. The Department does not have the authority to administer the CIAC.

Adjournment: Commissioner Berch made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Pessina. It was a unanimous vote. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Christine Bourne

cc Mayor Daniel Drew