

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

**Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes of May 3, 2012**  
**Held at the Recreation Department Office at 100 Riverview Center**

Present: Commissioners Gerry Winzer, Tony Jaskot, Sheila Jones and Ricky Romano. Director Raymond Santostefano and Superintendent John Milardo, representing the Parks and Recreation Department.

Members of the Public Cat Greaves, Director of Family Resources at Macdonough School arrived at 7:05 p.m.

Absent: Commissioners Philip Pessina and Todd Berch and Student Representatives Malcolm Alleyne and Dhruvi Patel. It was noted by Director Santostefano and Chairman Winzer that Commissioner D'Aquila resigned on May 2, 2012.

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.

Minutes: Chairman Winzer requested a motion be made accepting the Parks and Recreation Commission minutes of April 5, 2012. Commissioner Romano made the motion. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion.

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

It was decided to move the items that needed voting to this point in the meeting to accommodate Commissioner Romano. He needs to leave and without him there wouldn't be a quorum.

Old Business: Director Santostefano explained that the \$85,000 LoCIP money was approved in Finance and Government to make improvements at Palmer Field. The majority leader of the Common Council said that the Council would like to use the \$57,000 revenue that was made from advertising that was going to be used for a new concession stand and LoCIP for the balance to make the repairs at Palmer Field. We would bond at a later time for the concession stand. Superintendent Milardo stated that we wanted to do two concession stands so people at football games wouldn't have to walk all the way to the other side of the fields to use the concession stand. A discussion about having two concession stands took place.

Motion: A motion to approve the \$85,000 LoCIP funds for repairs at Palmer Field was made by Commissioner Jaskot, second by Commissioner Romano.

Vote: The vote was unanimously approved.

Director Santostefano commented that the emergency repair that was supposed to cost \$3,000 only cost \$800. The electrical panel was hit by lightning.

Public Hearing: Cat Greaves, Director of Family Resource Center at Macdonough School spoke about installing a “Born Learning Trail” at the border of Donovan Park. This would be paid for by the Board of Education. Maintenance would be done by the Parks Department, but there would be no cost to the Parks and Recreation Department. She gave out information to the Commissioners including the fact that the signs were graffiti free and there would be learning activities along the way with some spots being interactive sights. Superintendent Milardo asked questions about location and vandalism.

New Business:

Motion: A motion to approve the “Born Learning Trail” at Donovan Park was made by Commissioner Jones, and seconded by Commissioner Romano.

Vote: The vote was unanimously approved.

Tabled: The following agenda items were tabled for the June meeting:

Old Business: Dog Park – Chairman Winzer spoke about Marsalek Park, although parking may be a problem.

New Business: Eagle Scout project (withdrawn by the applicant)

Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

Department Reports: Director Santostefano discussed several issues with regard to the parks, lacrosse at Lawrence School, soccer, baseball, cleaning the tunnel and repairing the lights in the tunnel, woodchips at Donovan Park, overflow/spillway repair at Swails Park where the whole pond started to empty, repaired fence at Palmer Field, repaired boardwalk, Middletown Youth Soccer is not happy with the Country Club Road fields. The Country Club Road soccer fields and the parking lot were rolled and the gate was fixed. Commissioner Romano reported that he serves on the Board of Middletown Youth Soccer. He reported that Parks and Recreation is doing everything necessary to make it better. The field is being over-utilized and damaged by the league and he will speak to MYS about requirements for the fields. Director Santostefano also reported repairs to the courts and nets of the tennis courts and that all fields are being painted and mowed for baseball and soccer.

Director Santostefano reported on the many recreation programs. He also reported that Middlesex Eye Physicians donated a color copier to the Recreation office. Spring programs are running well, we had a Spring vacation program that charged \$15 per participant per day and we had 37 children enrolled. Flag football has 40 participants on Saturdays, 21 grandparents had a program with Dr. Foley of the Community Health Center, the Lady Katherine Cruise is sold out, Ray Jacobs Scholarship has \$1,835, Wadsworth Arboretum had a tree planted in Ray Jacob’s name, 36 children are playing basketball on Friday nights, free movie night, we are working on free lunches for certain summer camps and summer employment letters have gone out..

Director Santostefano also reported that the Mayor’s office has approved using the lawn at City Hall to display an information sign as well as a billboard for advertising. Other

departments can use this billboard when Parks and Recreation is not using it. He also stated that the Parks and Recreation Dream Team was narrowly defeated by the Harlem Rockets.

Miscellaneous: Chairman Winzer spoke about the resignation of Commissioner D'Aquila. He would like to see a female appointment for a different point of view, noting that there are several male athletes and he would like to broaden the talent on the commission. It was told to him by Marie Norwood that the member could be either a democrat or republican.

Adjournment: Commissioner Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Romano. It was a unanimous vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Christine Bourne

cc Mayor Daniel Drew