

Parks and Recreation Committee

SPECIAL MEETING

JANUARY 27, 2016

Members Present: Chairman Kadeem, Mr. Stelmack, Mr. Jaekle, Mr. Salerno, Ms. Antezzo, Mr. Marcone

Members Absent: Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Hoydick, Mr. Rich, Mr. Watson

Others Present: Recreation Superintendent, Pat Patusky, Parks Superintendent, Chad Esposito, Short Beach Commission Chairwoman, Karen E. Daden, Council Chairwoman, Beth Daponte

Call to Order: Chairman Kadeem called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Chairman Kadeem welcomed the new members to the committee.

Projects and Reports

- a. **In-line skating – Pat Putusky reported that we don't have the skate park at the beach anymore. The CIP has \$200,000 for the fiscal year 2017–need to find a location. Several areas were mentioned by the members, but neighborhood complaints are a problem in finding a location. Once a location is established, then we can proceed to the next step.**

- b. **5-Year Plan –Council woman Daponte requested the committee provide a quarterly report to apprise the Council of what is happening. Also, she mentioned if there is anything you need of the council to let Chairman Kadeem know. She feels that Parks and Recreation are an important aspect of our community.**

Pat Putusky updated the members on the 5 year master plan, since the last sub-committee was developed about a 1 1/2 years ago, residents participated in several surveys. The plan was intended to

guide the sub-committee in future decision making developments. Certain areas of town were looked at. One particular area discussed was closing Glendale Road, near Longbrook Park to enlarge the fields. There were some negative aspects to this plan; nevertheless, Public Works was going to look into it. However, it's been over a year and some of the members are no longer on the committee and financial issues arose so it didn't progress further. She suggested reconstituting a new sub-committee. Several members agreed to be on the sub-committee.

MS. ANTEZZO MADE A MOTION TO RECONSTITUTE THE SUB-COMMITTEE AND CLOSE THE WORK ON THE 5 YEAR PLAN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. JAEKLE AND THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Continuing items

a. **Frank DeLuca Field – Closed for season**

b. **Short Beach Commission – Mr. Jaekle questioned since he is a member on the Short Beach Commission what information does this committee need in relations to Parks and Recreation.**

Mr. Jaekle asked about the Little League field at the beach, he wanted to know who you contact to use the facilities there. Mr. Esposito said Ben Kusinski would be the one to speak with.

Mr. Jaekle shared with the commission that he received some negative feedback from residents, they rented a pavilion for a party and their guests were charged for parking. They feel they already paid and their guest shouldn't be charged for parking. Mr. Jaekle said by raising the fees for the rental permit, it would compensate for the parking privileges. Several members did not agree with this and felt the amount was too high; it might discourage people from renting the facilities. In addition, Chairman Kadeem felt it would take away parking space for our residents, and possibly lose money. Ms. Patusky stated that fees haven't been raised since 2010, and if raised in lower increments then it would be viable. Members discussed different ways to resolve this issue; however,

if raising the fees is an option, then it must be decided by March 1st.
Discussion ensued.

c. Boothe Park – none

d. Maximize Use of School Facilities –Ms. Patusky mentioned some cancellations at the last minute, but for the most part, it's better this year than other years.

Mr. Stelmack brought up a concern about the basketball courts at Nichols School, portables were placed on the courts. They were supposed to move them to the rear; however, it has not happened yet. There are a lot of children and adults as well who use those courts. Chairman Kadeem said he will reach out to the Board of Education about this matter.

e. Tennis Courts, Platform Tennis and Pickle Ball –none

Short Beach Courts–Six courts are playable as of now, enough for Stratford High to use. Mr. Esposito mentioned very costly to redo them. Mr. Salerno said maybe in the future we could only do four of them. Scaling down would be less money, the council would have to vote.

f. Athletic Fields – none

g. Longbrook Park

a. Splash Park-Very successful.

h. Roosevelt Forest – Mr. Esposito mentioned he's getting inquiries for wedding/party permits for the pavilion. He stated there is no formal permit process right now, there's camping permits that Public Works offers. Ms. Patusky said, if Roosevelt Forest Commission and the Council are interested, then we can just add it to the Short Beach application process.

- i. Youth Soccer Field U-12—Chairman Kadeem and the members voted to add the Youth Soccer Field U-12 to Athletic Fields. All were in favor.

Old Business

- a. Smoke free beaches, parks and fields —Ms. Patusky said it went to the town attorney and the council and it didn't go forward. The new Council will put it back on the Agenda and discuss it further when Mr. O'Brien is present.

New Business –

- a. South End Splash Park —The site for this will be at the Johnson House Field, along Sedgewick Avenue. Mr. Esposito will look into getting a quote on the cost. The process would need to go through Planning and Zoning. Ms. Antezzo mentioned a block grant of \$50,000 was allocated for the splash park a couple of years ago, she doesn't know whether it's still available. Something we can look into and inquiring about a block grant for this year too. Chairman Kadeem stressed finalizing this so we can proceed with this project.
- b. Memorial for Larry Miller – No report
- c. Longbrook Park Skating Rink—In resolution now, going forward.
- d. Stoneybrook Field —Keeping on Agenda
- e. Memorial for Bud Underwood – Ms. Antezzo mentioned a plaque on the gazebo in Paradise Green, will look into this further. Ms. Daponte disclosed there is a place on the Town Council Agenda where memorials would be addressed.

MR. MARCONE MADE A MOTION TO ALLOW AN ADDITIONAL ITEM UNDER NEW BUSINESS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. SALERNO. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Added to New Business: Kayak/Canoe access stations. Ms. Patusky believes there were racks at Birdseye Dock, perhaps they were swept away by hurricane Sandy, could contact Waterfront and Harbor Management about this. One location that was suggested for a rental station is a small area near Housatonic and Homestead Avenue. It would be a convenient way for people to access our waterfront and also bring in some revenue for our town.

Adjournment – Seeing no other business to discuss, Mr. Marccone made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Salerno. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

Laurell Barr