

Parks and Recreation Committee

February 24, 2016

The Parks & Recreation Committee held a regular meeting on Wednesday, February 24, 2016 in Room 213 of Stratford Town Hall as duly posted.

Members Present: Chairman Kadeem, Mr. Jaekle, Mr. Salerno, Ms. Antezzo, Mr. Marcone, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Hoydick, Mr. Rich, Mr. Watson

Alternates Present: Ms. Calzone, Mr. Bauer

Members Absent: Mr. Stelmack

Others Present: Recreation Superintendent, Pat Patusky, Parks Superintendent, Chad Esposito

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

Chairman Kadeem introduced the new members to the committee.

Approval of Minutes – Ms. Antezzo made a motion to approve the minutes of November 18, 2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jaekle. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Salerno made a motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting on January 27, 2016. The motion was seconded by Ms. Antezzo. The motion carried unanimously.

Projects and Reports

- a. **In-line skating** – No Report
- b. **5-Year Plan** – There will be a meeting immediately following this meeting.

Continuing items

a. **Frank DeLuca Field** – Mr. Rich informed the Committee he has been contacted by the Brakettes in reference to their 70th anniversary. He distributed and reviewed letter and exhibits from Pat Sanders, Chairman, Stratford Brakettes. He suggested have a spokesperson from the Brakettes at the next meeting. Mr. Esposito noted the repairs requested would cost six (6) figures but some maintenance could be accomplished. **Mr. Rich made a motion to have Mr. Esposito do an itemized list of items needed prior to referring this matter to the Town Council. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hoydick. The motion carried unanimously.**

b. **Short Beach Commission** – Mr. Jaekle reported block grant request for mats is in process. Mr. Esposito reported golf course will be opened on March 25th weather

permitting. Committee members discussed parking passes for pavilion rentals – this item will be discussed at the next Short Beach Meeting. Ms. Patusky needs to know the outcome by March 1st. Mr. O’Brien questioned certificate for golf lessons and men’s league.

c. Boothe Park – none

d. Maximize Use of School Facilities – Mr. O’Brien discussed the school closure on February 6th which resulted in cancellation of basketball. Mr. Esposito clarified decisions on closures.

e. Tennis Courts, Platform Tennis and Pickle Ball – Mr. Watson noted the Short Beach tennis courts are in dire need of repair. Mr. Kadeem also questioned the repair of the basketball court at Short Beach. Mr. Esposito will assess what needs to be done but noted tennis court cost will be very expensive. Committee members discussed moving portable classroom at Nichols School.

f. Athletic Fields – Ms. Patusky has submitted request for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to install the lighting at Johnson Academy – money was also requested for the Johnson splash park. She distributed photographs of potential splash park. Committee members discussed sprinkler system at Wooster, Second Hill Lane field and open space at Pirhala Farm.

g. Longbrook Park

- a. Splash Park
- b. groomer

Mr. Hoydick made a motion to strike the splash park and groomer from the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Antezzo. The motion carried unanimously.

h. Roosevelt Forest – No Report

- i. Youth Soccer Field U-12– Mr. Rich made a motion to strike Youth Soccer Field U-12 from the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Antezzo. The motion carried unanimously.**

Old Business

a. **Smoke free beaches, parks and fields** – Noted there was a huge public outcry against implementing the ban.

New Business

- a. **South End Splash Park** – No Report
- b. **Memorial for Larry Miller** – No Report
- c. **Longbrook Park Skating Rink** – Noted there was insurance and legal problems with this project – Fathers Club now wants Town to install. Committee members discussed liability issues.
- d. **Stoneybrook Field** – No Report
- e. **Memorial for Bud Underwood** – Ms. Antezzo is working on this project

Members Comments/Concerns – Mr. Rich has been in contact with the current members of the dog park action committee. They will be bringing forth a proposal in April and he would like this item to be put back on the agenda. **Mr. Rich made a motion to put the dog park back on the agenda under New Business. The motion was seconded by Ms. Antezzo. The motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Watson would like to see the Parks & Recreation Committee involved in the bicycle lane and have the Greenway put on the agenda under New Business. **Mr. Watson made a motion to put Greenway on the agenda under New Business. The motion was seconded by Ms. Antezzo. The motion carried unanimously.**

Committee members discussed the unauthorized usage of Short Beach facilities. Discussion ensued on Parks Department providing rosters and permits for the fields. **Mr. O'Brien made a motion to eliminate the providing of rosters to the Parks Department. The motion was seconded by Mr. Salerno. The motion failed 5-6.**

Seeing no other business to discuss, Mr. Jaekle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. O'Brien. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

Gail De Cilio

Recording Secretary