**Torrington Parks and Recreation Commission**

**Meeting Minutes**

**May 3, 2023**

Chairperson Patricia Fairchild called to order a regular meeting of the Torrington Parks and Recreation Commission on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. at the Armory. In attendance were vice –chairman, Fran Ducotey, commissioners Jim Pescatore, Mike Fritch, Casey McKenna, Interim Superintendent Ed McCann, and Public Works Director, Ray Drew.

**Adoption of Previous Month’s Minutes**: On a motion by Fran Ducotey with a second by Mike Fritch, the commission voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the April 5, 2023 commission meeting.

**Correspondence:** None

**Citizen’s Comments**: 1. Brian Heller asked if we were taking away the $500 from the umpire’s scheduling. Ed McCann explained it was not eliminated. 2. Tom from the trails group told the commission about a right of way at Charlene Besse Park. 3. Shannon Sharack reported that pickle ball is going well.

Chairperson Fairchild asked for a change in the agenda asking that New Business be put ahead of the rest of the agenda items. On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Casey McKenna, the commission voted unanimously to change the order of the agenda.

**New Business**: Representatives from Torrington High School presented a draft of a mural that the art students would like to paint at the Teen Center on May 26th, Community Service Day. On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Fran Ducotey, the commission voted unanimously to approve the mural pending the final submission of the proposed mural.

**Committee Updates**

**Facility Use/Requests**

**Coe Memorial Park**

1. Ed Advance for Pre-K Graduation, 6/21/2023. Motion to approve by Fran Ducotey, seconded by Casey McKenna and unanimous approval with fees.
2. Little Guild for vaccine clinic, 8/13/2023. Motion to approve by Fran Ducotey, seconded by Mike Fritch and unanimous approval with fees.
3. Main St. Ed Cannata for Strawberry Festival dates until 2028. Motion to approve by Mike Fritch, seconded by Fran Ducotey and unanimous approval for one year in advance only, 2024.
4. Renee Lopez, Light Up the Dark, 9/16/2023. Motion to approve by Mike Fritch, seconded by Fran Ducotey and unanimous approval with a $25 per hour fee.

**Fuessenich Park**

1. Jeremy Leifert, New Hartford Spoilers Baseball, preapproved for 5/6/2013.
2. Ray Tanguay, OWTS baseball, 5/11/2012. Motion to approve by Jim Pescatore, seconded by Mike Fritch and unanimous approval.
3. Maria White, THS boys’ basketball, for car wash fundraiser in parking lot. Motion to deny without prejudice by Fran Ducotey, seconded by Casey McKenna and unanimous approval.

**Franklin Plaza**

1. Life Ministries for Life Worship, various Sundays starting 6/7/2023. Motion to approve pending availability and fees by Jim Pescatore, seconded by Mike Fritch and unanimous approval.
2. Main St. Ed Cannata for Strawberry Festival dates until 2028. Motion to approve by Mike Fritch, seconded by Fran Ducotey and unanimous approval with fees for one year in advance only, 2024.

**Armory**

1 .NWCT Chamber of Commerce for Great Business Giveaway, 8/16/ 2023. Motion to approve by Fran Ducotey, seconded by Casey McKenna and unanimous approval with fees to cover costs.

**Toro 1 and 2**

1. IASD Leon de Juda for softball tournament 6/25/2023. Motion to approve by Jim Pescatore, seconded by Fran Ducotey and unanimous approval with $160 fee and insurance.

**West Torrington**

1. First Congregational Church, Concert 9/23/2023. Motion to approve by Jim Pescatore, seconded by Mike Fritch and unanimous approval.

**Programs**

Ed McCann and Ray Drew reported:

* Men’s basketball going well. Bill Nataro’s program will start in mid-June. Shot clock will be installed.
* Summer park program will be for grades K-6 and only at Pleasant View (7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
* Pool will be open seven days a week from June 24 to August 13 (11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)
* Pickle ball on Wednesday until 8:00 p.m. In June it will end at 5:00 p.m. because of basketball.
* Casino trips are $35 per person.
* No Pageant of Drums this year.
* Interviews for Recreation Director to be held on Thursday, May 4th with six candidates to be interviewed.
* Casey McKenna reported on Vocal Showcase at the Nancy Marine Theater at new time of 5:00 p.m. There will be only one semifinalist session.
* Skate park- Ray Drew handed out posters to commission members for public session on Thursday, May 11, as a vision session for skating community. After this session, there will be an online survey. Projected cost is $975,000 for entire redevelopment of that area of Besse Park.

**Capital/Budget**

Ray Drew reported:

* Coe and Recreation budgets are going through the budgetary process.
* Ruth’s position will be filled.
* Lindsay is now the Rec program coordinator.

**Facility Operations**

Ray Drew reported:

* Toro soccer area being repaired.
* Dugouts are going to West Torrington.
* Working on upgrades to the Armory. A full condition assessment will be started.
* Electrical work at Coe Memorial Park is being completed.
* Boiler replacement at the Teen Center.
* Working with Still River Gardens to add color at Franklin Plaza and consulting with an arborist to examine damaged tree there.
* Property on Cook St. is possible site for pickle ball courts.
* May be looking at tennis courts and pickle ball courts behind Fuessenich Park.

**Coe Memorial Park**

Ed McCann presented commissioners with a wish list of projects for the park. This list included: hiring a cleaning service, painting the outside, ordering more chairs, framing Brett’s picture, security cameras, repairing the handicap ramp near the women’s bathroom.

On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Fran Ducotey, the commission unanimously approved the start of these projects.

There were no minutes available for commission review.

**Other Business**

Ray Drew would like to start looking into field sponsorships with the funds going into the Rec account. On a motion by Jim Pescatore and a second by Fran Ducotey, the commission voted unanimously to approve the idea.

Casey McKenna inquired if any pictures had been taken at the presentation of the bats to Brett’s sons at his memorial.

The commission thanked Ed McCann for all his hard work as interim director.

**Adjournment:** On a motion by Mike Fritch with a second by Jim Pescatore, the commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:40 p.m.

Minutes presented by Patricia Fairchild, Chairperson.