

## **Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes - Thursday, July 24, 2008**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Thomas Ragonese at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall in conference room #1. Members present were Tom Ragonese, Dan Silbo, Charlie Wood, and Kevin Rogers. Also present was Kathleen Bagley, Director, Parks and Recreation Department.

### A. Public Comments.

None.

### B. Minutes - June 26, 2008.

Charlie Wood moved to approve [the minutes of June 26, 2008](#). The motion was seconded by Dan Silbo and voted unanimously.

### C. Monthly Report.

The June 2008 monthly report was reviewed by members. Chairperson Ragonese asked about the operation of the outdoor pools. Ms. Bagley reported that the pools opened on time and attendance was good due to the nice weather. Ms. Bagley commented on the success of the Teen Theater summer production of Anything Goes. She reported that each of the four shows had a good audience for the production. She notified board members that next week the dance and drama shows would be held for the public and the families of the children in this program.

### D. Letters and Announcements.

#### 1. Town Basketball Courts.

Ms. Bagley brought to the board's attention a request from the Town Council to review the use of the basketball courts at Colonel Chester Park on Crest Street and Farms Village Park on Cedar Street. Ms. Bagley explained that a member of the Town Council had received complaints from neighbors regarding the use of the basketball courts at these parks. The complaints from the neighbors were that inappropriate language was used on the courts, alcohol was present, the courts were used past sunset and littering was a problem. The park rules state that parks are open from 8 a.m. until sunset. Ms. Bagley explained that the Town Council was looking for feedback from the Park Board about these issues. Board members felt that if the rules were not being followed by people using the facility then the police should be notified to enforce these rules. They asked Ms. Bagley to talk with the Police Department about stepping up patrols in the area during the hours of operation for these basketball courts. The police should be telling people to leave after hours and they should take whatever action is needed to enforce the park rules. If kids are drinking alcohol or using abusive language, the police should be called to handle the issue. The Park Board is not looking to close the courts, because this seems to be a cyclical issue. Park Board members felt the police should monitor the situation.

### E. Old Business

#### 1. Mill Woods Park Building Committee.

Chairperson Ragonese gave Board Members a status report on the Little League field. He reported that the Town Council agreed to a proposal from the Parks and Recreation staff and the Wethersfield Little League organization to purchase lights for the Little League field. The Wethersfield Little League organization will help pay for the lights for this field with current funds available in their budget and by borrowing money from the town and repaying it over the next five years.

The contractor on this project is currently taking the trees down in the area necessary for the construction of the field. One member of the Building Committee, Wes Sargent, has volunteered to monitor the progress of the contractor at the site. The contractor has just gotten started with this project and his timetable is to finish it in the late fall.

Chairperson Ragonese reported that the groundbreaking ceremony went very well. He recognized members of the board in attendance including Dan Silbo and Rich Lepore. Chairperson Ragonese served as the master of ceremonies for the event. Also in attendance were members of the Town Council, State Representatives Russ Moran and Tony Guerrera, State Senators, Paul Doyle and John Fonfara. Our Council Liaison Jeff Kotkin introduced the President of Northeast Utilities who presented a check to the Town of Wethersfield for the Mill Woods Master Plan project. The check was for \$10,000. This groundbreaking ceremony lasted about 30 minutes and had members of the public in attendance along with players from two Little League teams in town and their coaches.

2. Community Center Renovation Project.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to give an update on the status of the project. She reported that the project is moving along and the contractor is completing the work on this renovation project. The driveway loop is being installed on the exterior of the building and interior work is being finished by the contractor.

3. Cove Docks.

Ms. Bagley reported that they are researching answers to the questions proposed by members at the June meeting for the new Cove Park Dock Plan. She plans to have this information for their August meeting with a possible public forum for the Park Board's September meeting.

F. New Business.

1. Dedication Ceremony for the 9/11 Memorial Sports Center.

Ms. Bagley reported that the date has been set for this dedication ceremony. It will be September 11, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. Board members will receive invitations for this event.

2. Wording for Park Bench Plaque for Dick Dobmeier.

Board Members reviewed the proposed options for the words on the plaque in memory of Dick Dobmeier. Board Members liked options two or three and asked Ms. Bagley to check with the family for their preference on the engraving on the plaque.

3. Cottone Field Lights.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley the status of lights for Cottone field. She reported that the Planning and Zoning Commission would be voting on this issue at their August 5th meeting. The Town of Wethersfield received a state grant from Senator Fonfara's office of \$100,000 towards the installation of lights at the football field. The next step is the approval of the Planning and Zoning Commission. She will be attending this meeting to speak in favor of the lights at the field.

G. Adjournment.

Charlie Wood moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. The motion was seconded by Dan Silbo and voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Bagley, Director

## Parks and Recreation Department