

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes - Thursday, October 26, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Ragonese. Members present were Chairperson Ragonese, Timothy Verre (left at 8:00 p.m.), Richard Lepore and Daniel Silbo.

A. Public Comments.

Members of the public Jennifer Wolf, 345 Wolcott Hill Road and Marquerite Alpert, 7 Morrison Avenue, addressed Board members on the Elementary Learn to Ski Program. They have requested that the Parks and Recreation Department sponsor the ski program at Mt. Southington. Charles Wright has approximately 22-25 skiers with five (5) chaperones. They stated there were no problems last year. Mt. Southington runs a program for chaperones before the season starts. Jennifer Wolf asked that the program be reinstated. Marquerite Alpert was impressed with an evening event of advisors (chaperones) to meet the staff sponsored by Mt. Southington. Discussion followed on rates, insurance, bus costs and plans from Southington. They are looking for Parks and Recreation to sponsor all the elementary schools.

Board members discussed the issue. Timothy Verre felt the town should run the program, not each school. Board members asked Ms. Bagley to look into the program. She stated that she would check with the insurance agent and look into conditions for sponsoring the ski program. She will get back to Board Chairperson, Thomas Ragonese, in a few weeks.

B. [Minutes - September 28, 2006.](#)

Richard Lepore moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Timothy Verre.

C. Monthly Report - September, 2006.

The September monthly report was reviewed by Board members.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. Halloween Events.

Ms. Bagley reminded members of the children's Halloween party and the Nature Center's Halloween Haunted Habitat.

E. Old Business.

1. Mill Woods Master Plan.

Chairperson Ragonese reported that the Master Plan Sub-committee approved the RFQ proposal for the architect. Board members discussed the interview process and suggested Kevin Devoe and John Thibeault may be interested. Timothy Verre will ask Kevin or John to call Chairperson Ragonese or Kathy Bagley. Richard Lepore moved to approve the RFQ. The motion was seconded by Daniel Silbo and voted unanimously.

2. Bocce Courts.

Chairperson Ragonese reported that the courts opened on Sunday and they looked great. This facility will get a lot of use.

3. High School Tennis Courts.

Ms. Bagley reported that these courts have been resurfaced and the cracks sealed.

4. Dog Park.

The dog park is very successful. The volunteer committee is doing a great job educating the dog owners about the rules including dogs must be licensed.

F. New Business.

1. Keane Foundation Project at Community Center.

Ms. Bagley explained that the Foundation voted to move forward with the project of renovating the gym, stage, activity room and storage room in the Community Center. Town Council may appoint a building committee in November. The committee's first meeting could be in December and their first task will be to hire an architect. Usually, a project of this size takes three (3) months to design and six (6) months for construction.

2. Athletic Field Projects Update.

Ms. Bagley reported that the first project will be the repairing of Mill Woods Little League infield by Winding Brook Turf Farm. The Field Maintenance Committee is awaiting a proposal to fix the High School baseball infield. The aeration of certain fields will take place, weather permitting.

3. Dock Project at Cove Park.

Staff are negotiating with the number one firm to set a fee for the work and to finalize the scope of work.

4. Football Incident.

Ms. Bagley informed members of the physical altercation between an Eagles Youth Football coach and a parent at a fundraiser dance for football. Due to this incident, the Youth Football Board met and with agreement of the Parks and Recreation Department, suspended the coach for the remainder of the season. The parent volunteer was suspended from any volunteer activity with the football program.

G. Board Member Comments.

None.

H. Adjournment.

Daniel Silbo moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Richard Lepore and voted unanimously.