

## **Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes - Thursday, June 23, 2005**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Richard Dobmeier at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Manager's conference room in the Town Hall. Members present were Chairperson Richard Dobmeier, Charles Wood, Richard Lepore, Daniel Silbo and Kathleen Bagley, Director, Parks and Recreation Department.

A. Public comments.

No public comments.

B. Minutes - May, 2005.

Charles Wood moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Richard Lepore and voted unanimously.

C. Monthly Reports.

The April and May, 2005 monthly reports were reviewed.

D. Letters and Announcements.

None.

E. Old Business.

1. Report on Mill Woods Master Plan Sub Committee Meeting.

Ms. Bagley reported that the meeting was held at the new Nature Center and committee members received a tour of the Center. She reported that committee members are looking at ways to publicize improvements to the park for town residents. The committee will look to develop a plan to work at fundraising for this project.

2. Skate Park Update.

Ms. Bagley reported that the contractor was awarded the bid by the Town Council. He is currently putting together the necessary paperwork for the project. Ms. Bagley anticipates the beginning of construction in July.

3. Eleanor Buck Wolf Nature Center.

Ms. Bagley reported to Board members that the Nature Center open house was held on June 11, 2005. The dedication and ribbon cutting was held at 10:00 a.m. and the Nature Center had open house hours until 4:00 p.m. Many residents visited the Nature Center with many compliments on the renovation of the building. The Nature Center will be open to the public Tuesday through Saturday and donations will be accepted at the door.

4. Cell Tower.

Ms. Bagley reported that she has been in contact with the cell tower representatives. They are still looking at a location in the park. They now understand that the Board is not happy with the site in front of the bathhouse, but will consider other sites. One site being mentioned was behind the existing tennis courts between the church property and the Town of Wethersfield property near softball field #2. This site will be reviewed with the cell tower representative and he will get back to Ms. Bagley at a future date. A question that came up was on who gets the money for the rent for the cell tower. Ms. Bagley reported that

the town manager will be looking into this. A previous discussion included the possibility that some of these funds could go towards the Mill Woods Master Plan.

F. New Business.

1. Review Draft of Town's Strategic Plan.

Ms. Bagley explained to Park and Board members that the Strategic Plan is a draft and committee members can review it, bring their comments to the next meeting or contact the Chairman of the Strategic Plan Committee, Mr. Peter Gardow. She explained that the Strategic Plan Committee is looking for input from committee members. They hope to receive the input by September. The plan took into account the town's earlier Strategic Plan and the committee is now looking to make revisions to that plan and put it in a different format for implementation. towards the Mill Woods Master Plan. One question was on tax credits for volunteers. This goal may be too broad to consider for all volunteers.

2. Dog Park.

Ms. Bagley reported that a resident approached her about the possibility of a dog park in town. She pursuing this concept with the resident and will keep the Board updated on her progress. She explained that the one thing that will be difficult is the actual site for this dog park. She will be working with the resident to see what can be done on this issue.

3. July Meeting.

Committee members discussed the July meeting and their summer tour. They will hold their summer tour prior to the July meeting and will meet at the parking lot of the Nature Center at 5:45 p.m. They will then do a tour of Mill Woods Park and hold their 7:00 p.m. meeting at the Nature Center. Committee members will devote the entire tour time to walking through Mill Woods Park and identifying improvements for the Mill Woods Master Plan. Ms. Bagley explained that her office will call members prior to this meeting and get their grinder order for supper for the Park Board meeting. Committee members liked the idea of having the July meeting at the new Nature Center and suggested to hold their future meetings at different sites around town. Possibly, the September meeting will be held at the Community Center. All members are invited to the tour at 5:45 p.m. with the regular meeting starting at 7:00 p.m.

4. Trees.

Members brought up the subject of trees being cut on the dike between Wethersfield and Hartford for a maintenance road by the City of Hartford. Ms. Bagley reported that this is being considered by the city and they sent notice to the town of this proposal. She will keep the Board updated on the status of this project.

G. Motion to Adjourn.

Richard Lepore moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Motion seconded by Daniel Silbo and voted unanimously.