

[NOTE: These minutes are made available to the public prior to Parks and Recreation Advisory Board acceptance.]

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Thursday, July 28, 2005

Members present were Richard Dobmeier, Chairperson; Daniel Silbo, Peter Kalousdian, Andy Adil, Town Council Liaison; Kathleen Bagley, Director, Parks and Recreation Department and Marty Sitler, Recreation Supervisor.

The Park Board held their annual tour at 5:45 p.m. and met at the Nature Center parking lot. Board members did a tour of Mill Woods Park and Ms. Bagley explained the key points for the Mill Woods Master Plan. Part of the discussion centered around the grant the town will receive through the efforts of State Representative Paul Doyle for \$700,000 for athletic field construction in Mill Woods. These funds are for three fields--the lighted Little League Field, the soccer field and the combination soccer/football field. Board members discussed the funds for this project and were concerned that it might not be enough money to build the three fields. A discussion was held on additional ways to fund the construction of these fields. Board members discussed receiving additional funds from the town or through fundraisers with local sports groups.

Board members reviewed the new construction at the skate park site and looked at the future site for the new lighted Little League field. The tour then continued up around the bathhouse and the concession stand to the back parking lot by the filter house of the swimming pond. At that point, members met with town residents who were interested in creating a dog park in Mill Woods Park. The residents introduced themselves to Board members. Present were Kathy and Don Griswold and Mr. and Mrs. Dansereau. Ms. Bagley explained that she asked these residents to meet at this site to discuss the feasibility with Board members of a dog park in the area of the woods located just south of the Mill Woods filter house. Ms. Bagley reported that this area is currently used by dog owners walking their dogs and suggested this area as a possible site for the dog park. Board members discussed this area and will talk about it at their Board meeting this evening. Ms. Bagley explained that the only thing needed for the dog park would be fencing so that the dogs would walk into the park and not be on a leash. Also, some site clearing would be needed for some trails for the dogs to access that area. The residents are interested in forming a committee to fundraise for this project similar to the skate park project. Kathy Griswold suggested it might help the town control the geese in the park with the dogs. Board members liked the idea of the geese not visiting the park. The Board tour concluded at that time and Board members went back to the Nature Center to hold their meeting.

Minutes - Thursday, July 28, 2005

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Richard Dobmeier at 7:00 p.m. at the Nature Center conference room at 156 Prospect Street. Members present were Richard Dobmeier, Daniel Silbo, Peter Kalousidan and Council Liaison Andy Adil. Also, arriving later were Charles Wood and Tom Ragonese.

A. Public Comments.

No comments.

B. [Minutes - June 23, 2005](#).

Daniel Silbo moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Peter Kalousdian and voted unanimously.

C. Monthly Report.

The June monthly report was reviewed.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. Chairperson Dobmeier distributed a copy of a letter he sent to State Representative Paul Doyle thanking him for the appropriation of \$700,000 for the Mill Woods Master Plan.
2. Resolution.

Board members presented Ms. Bagley a resolution congratulating her on her upcoming marriage to Dave Powers in August.

E. Old Business.

1. Report on Mill Woods Master Plan.

Ms. Bagley distributed a draft of a funding plan developed for the Mill Woods Master Plan sub-committee. This report identified the state funds acquired by State Representative Paul Doyle in the amount of \$700,000. This funding will become available in the state budget July, 2006; however, Ms. Bagley reminded members that we will still need the State Bond Council approval in order to receive this money. The funds are for three fields--the lighted Little League field, soccer field and the combination soccer/football field. Board members continued to discuss additional ways to raise funds to continue the construction of the Mill Woods Master Plan. Items needing funding in the near future will include design costs, utilities and parking. These items will need to be addressed as a possible request in the Capital Improvement Program for budget year 2006-07. Ms. Bagley also explained that she will be working with local sports groups to see about their fundraising options and identifying grant opportunities to help match some of this state funding. Another idea, will be implementing advertising signs on the sports fields in town for the spring 2006. Ms. Bagley reported that the Mill Woods Master Plan Sub-Committee will be holding their September meeting on September 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the Nature Center. It will be an open meeting for the public to encourage new residents to attend and get involved with the Mill Woods Master Plan. At this meeting, Dr. Dest will be submitting his report on the study of the soils and water issues in the park. This information will be very important as we develop design plans for the athletic fields in Mill Woods Park. The second phase of the meeting will begin to identify a plan of action for the next several months in order to be ready to begin construction as soon as the state funds become available.

2. Status on the Skate Park Construction.

Marty Sitler reported that the construction is on schedule. The contractor is currently doing the excavating necessary to set it up for the pouring of concrete for this new structure. The skate park will have different obstacles for the youngsters to skate on and will also incorporate an in ground bowl shape for the variety of tricks associated with skate boarding. During the discussion of the skate park, Charles Woods suggested looking at the possibility of installing an emergency phone somewhere in the area of the new skate park. He felt it might be a good idea to have an emergency phone hooked up to the Police Department in that area. Ms. Bagley will look into this suggestion.

F. New Business.

1. Dog Park.

Board members discussed the location of the dog park in Mill Woods Park. They were very supportive of this idea and felt Ms. Bagley should move forward with getting whatever necessary approvals are needed to locate the dog park in the location by the Mill Woods filter house. Board members reviewed the Master Plan and explained that even though the dog park was not included; it has been identified as a need by residents. Tom Ragonese moved to pursue the dog park in the location adjacent to Mill Woods filter house including the wooded area and part of the upper pond. The motion was seconded by Charles Wood and voted unanimously.

2. Cell Tower.

Council Liaison Andy Adil asked on the status of the cell tower location for Mill Woods Park. Ms. Bagley reported, to date, there is no further update. She explained that the original location was on the island in front of the bathhouse. This location was not acceptable to the Park Board members. The second location

was between the tennis courts and softball field #2. It was determined that this location was not on town property.

G. Adjournment.

Tom Ragonese moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Daniel Silbo and voted unanimously.