

## **Wethersfield Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes - March 25, 2004**

Members present for this meeting were Chairperson Richard Dobmeier and Tom Ragonese.

There was no quorum for this meeting.

Ms. Bagley reported that Peter Kalousidan called and stated he may not make this meeting, he had a previous commitment. Ms. Bagley reported that she spoke with Peter regarding additional fee increases for programs for the upcoming budget year 2004-2005. She reported to the Chairperson that she reviewed the new fee increases with Peter over the phone and received his vote to recommend these new fee increases to the Town Council

Ms. Bagley distributed to Chairperson Dobmeier and Mr. Ragonese a copy of the additional fee increases for the Recreation and Parks Department for next year's budget. The Chairperson and Mr. Ragonese reviewed these fee increases and had a brief discussion on the increase for the Playground Program. Mr. Ragonese reported that going from a zero fee to a \$50.00 fee could be difficult for this particular program. Ms. Bagley reported that after submitting her budget at a zero percent increase with cuts, she was asked by the Town Manager to decrease another \$40,000 from her budget. Ms. Bagley did this by increasing fees to raise additional revenue of \$16,254, and cutting her budget by \$23,755. She distributed to Board members a copy of the budget cuts to each Recreation and Park budget for fiscal year 2004-2005. She reported that all these cuts are being included in the Manager's budget and have the possibility of being accepted by the Town Council. She explained that the cuts to achieve a zero percent increase will have some dramatic impacts on some programs. One example she gave was that Mill Woods swimming area will close August 20th instead of Labor Day. She also explained that the additional \$40,000 cut includes closing Mill Woods swimming area on Saturday and Sunday evenings throughout the summer from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

The entire list of cuts is included with the minutes for this packet. Ms. Bagley reported that the Town Manager has explained that the upcoming budget year is going to be extremely difficult. All Town departments are making cuts to their budget.

A. Public Comments.

No public comments.

B. Minutes February 26, 2004.

Tabled.

C. Monthly Report February, 2004.

Reviewed.

D. Letter and Announcements.

1. Copy of Letter Regarding Status of Fence at Stillman Baseball Field.

Ms. Bagley reported that the Town Manager notified her that the Building Committee will include the fence for the project at the Stillman Building. The next step is to get the approval for the fencing from the Historic District Commission. She will keep the Board updated on the status of the fence.

E. Old Business.

1. Moeller Home Update.

Ms. Bagley reported that the Building Committee is on schedule and has been meeting with the architect to develop schematic plans for the building.

2. Report on Skate Park Project.

Ms. Bagley reported that the student committee is sponsoring a Band Concert March 26th at the Community Center as a fundraiser, and they are working very hard to raise money to build the Skate Park.

3. Report on Mill Woods Master Plan Meeting.

Tom Ragonese reported that they had their meeting a week ago and received a lot of information as they begin the process of developing a cost estimate to build Little League Field #2 and Soccer Field #2. The committee is looking at a lot of different ways to accomplish this process. He felt it is a good working committee and they are moving along to develop a budget for the project.

F. New Business.

1. Status of Artificial Surface. for Cottone Field at the High School.

Ms. Bagley reported that the town has sent out a request for proposals for companies to do a design build for the artificial surface at Cottone Field. The proposals will be opened later in the month and the town will then decide the next step for the renovation of Cottone Field.

2. Permits for Athletic Field Use.

Ms. Bagley explained that enclosed in the Board packet is the Recreation and Parks Department policy for utilizing fields in town. As per the Board's direction from the last meeting, she went ahead and developed fees for the use of town fields. Those fees are now included on the policy. The fees generated from the rental of these fields will be used for costs associated with implementing the Mill Woods Master Plan.

3. Availability of Schools for Summer Programs.

Ms. Bagley reported that many of the schools this summer will be under renovation, and she is working with the school system to determine what facilities might be available for the Recreation and Parks programs. She will keep the Board posted on the status of these facilities and is anticipating changes in locations for a variety of programs, including the Dance & Drama program.

4. Next meeting April 22, 2004.

Ms. Bagley reported that she will be unavailable for that meeting, she will be on vacation. However, another staff member could cover the meeting. She reminded members that it is also school vacation week and wondered if they could get a quorum for this meeting. She suggested changing the date or canceling the meeting. Members felt it would be appropriate to cancel the April meeting. If anything important came up Ms. Bagley could call a special meeting of the Park Board. Ms. Bagley stated the only thing she could think of would be the continuing budget process. She will keep board members updated on what happens with the Recreation and Parks Department budget.

Meeting concluded at 8:00 p.m.