

## **Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes - Thursday, March 27, 2008**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tom Ragonese at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall in conference room #1. Members present were Tom Ragonese, Charlie Wood, Kevin Rogers, Dan Silbo and Peter Kalousdian. Also present was Kathleen Bagley, Director, Parks and Recreation department. Ms. Bagley reported that Council Liaison, Jeff Kotkin, called and would be unable to make tonight's meeting.

A. Public comments.

No public comments.

B. Minutes - [February 28, 2008](#).

Dan Silbo moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Charlie Wood and voted unanimously.

C. Monthly Report - February 2008.

Board members reviewed the monthly report and discussed the piece of steel from the World Trade Center for the Community Center renovation. Ms. Bagley reported that the Keane Foundation has received permission for the piece of steel from the World Trade Center. This steel will be placed on the site at the Community Center building and another piece of steel will be installed inside the building for the 9/11 Memorial Sports Center.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. Thank you letter from the Dobmeier family - Chairperson Tom Ragonese read the thank you letter from the family for the Park and Recreation Board's donation in memory of Mr. Dick Dobmeier.

E. Old Business.

1. Mill Woods Park Building Committee Project Status.

Chairperson Ragonese reported that the project is on schedule to go out to bid next month and the committee members reviewed the bid specs and the alternates with the architect. The alternates include the press box, bleachers, foul poles and flagpole, sports lighting and the scoreboard. Chairperson Ragonese reported that the Lions Club is interested in donating approximately \$5,000 to help pay for the scoreboard. He also reported that borings are being done for the light poles and dugouts. These borings will give the architect the information he needs to design these items. Chairperson Ragonese talked about having a fundraising campaign for the Mill Woods project. He and Ms. Bagley have been talking about getting some volunteers interested in working on this campaign. Ms. Bagley reported that board member Peter Kalousdian is interested in helping with the new elevator needed for the press box. He is working on the possibility of having the elevator and/or labor donated for this project. He is talking with Steve Bruno, the president of the Wethersfield Little League. Members brainstormed ideas.

They suggested looking at Little League opening day. Another suggestion was to have a big thermometer in front of the park to keep track of the donations coming in for the fields.

Charlie Wood asked for an explanation on the parking in Mill Woods Park. Chairperson Ragonese reported that the gravel parking lot will remain the same. However, the Master Plan does call for additional parking adjacent to the Little League field and this will be looked at as funds permit.

2. Community Center Renovation Project.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to give the committee an update on this project. She reported that the project is on schedule and the contractor is doing a good job with the renovations. She explained that a lot of work is being done on the new windows in the gymnasium. These windows are in the process of being replaced and a new Kalwall system is being installed for the gymnasium windows. Plumbing work is going on for the bathrooms in the fitness room and duct work for the heating and air handling system in the gymnasium.

#### F. New Business.

##### 1. Spring Field Preparation.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to give an update on the status of the spring fields. She reported that as the weather permits the park maintenance staff is getting the fields online and ready to play for the high school groups. Right now weather is a factor because the nights are still cold and the ground is still frozen. As it warms up, additional work will be done to get the fields playable for the spring season.

##### 2. Town Agreement with Union on Volunteer Work.

Chairperson Ragonese explained to board members their packet contained the town's agreement with the union on volunteer work. This agreement identifies the responsibilities and work performed by the Union and it identifies the work that the town will allow volunteers to do on the fields. Board members reviewed this agreement and asked Ms. Bagley if the leagues were notified of this information. Ms. Bagley reported that every league president was sent a copy of the agreement along with a letter from her explaining the agreement. This letter is also included in the Park Board's packet. She asked the leagues or coaches to contact her office if any issues are identified with the fields. Ms. Bagley will notify the Maintenance Department about any field issues.

##### 3. Little League Signs.

Board members asked about the status of the Little League signs for the upcoming season. Ms. Bagley reported that Little League has begun looking for sponsors for these signs on their website and any interested parties can go to the website and get all the information about these outfield signs on the fences. Their website is [wethersfieldlittleleague.org](http://wethersfieldlittleleague.org).

##### 4. Stillman Baseball Field.

A board member reported that the foul poles at the Stillman baseball field need to be painted and straightened. Ms. Bagley will do a work order to have this work done prior to the spring season.

#### G. Motion to Adjourn

Charlie Wood move to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. Motion seconded by Dan Silbo and voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Bagley, Director  
Parks and Recreation Department