

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes - Thursday, April 24, 2008

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tom Ragonese at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall. Members present were Tom Ragonese, Kevin Rogers and Rich Lepore. Also present was Kathleen Bagley, Director, Parks and Recreation Department. Chairperson Ragonese explained that this meeting was scheduled to start at 7:30 p.m., because the Mill Woods Building Committee met prior to this meeting. They reviewed the bids for the Little League field and wanted to make sure they had enough time before members had to attend the Park Board meeting.

A. Public Comments.

None.

B. Minutes - [March 27, 2008](#).

Rich Lepore moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Kevin Rogers and voted unanimously.

C. Monthly Report - March 2008.

The monthly report was reviewed by members. Chairperson Ragonese discussed the Keane Foundation's 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament. All members concurred that it was a great event and the children had a lot of fun.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. Summer Brochure.

Board members reviewed the summer brochure. They discussed the Keeney concert series and the weightlifting program at the high school.

E. Old Business.

1. Mill Woods Park Building Committee.

Chairperson Ragonese gave committee members an update on the status of the construction of the Little League field. He reported that the town received two bids for this project. The Building Committee met just prior to the Park Board meeting and decided since there were only two bids to recommend to the Town Council that these bids be rejected. Chairperson Ragonese reported that the Town Council usually likes a minimum of three bids for any building project. He explained that the Building Committee will re-bid the project in May. Kevin Rogers suggested that with the economy in such a state there may be more bidders in May. Chairperson Ragonese reported that the committee will also look at changing or modifying the bid if this was a problem for contractors. He explained that members of the Building Committee will be contacting contractors to get their input on the bid process and to encourage them to bid on this next process. Chairperson Ragonese reported that many vendors did pick up the bids, but not all of them bid on the project.

2. Community Center Renovation Project.

Chairperson Ragonese asked Ms. Bagley to give an update on the status of this project. She reported that the construction project is on schedule. The contractor is working on both the inside and exterior of the building. The majority of the plumbing and electrical work is done and the contractor will begin some of the painting and cleaning of these areas. Upcoming projects will be the relocation of the generator and the fitness room.

F. New Business.

1. Request to Name Mill Woods Park Road After Dick Dobmeier.

A town resident, Dan Smith, contacted Ms. Bagley to ask the Park Board to consider naming Mill Woods Park Road after the previous Chairperson of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board, Dick Dobmeier. Ms. Bagley reported that Mr. Smith contacted her and asked that this item be tabled until the May meeting, because he was unable to make this meeting. Committee members had no problem tabling this request and will look forward to talking with Mr. Smith at the next meeting. Board members thought this was a good idea and are happy to consider it.

2. Dog Park.

Ms. Bagley reported that the Connecticut Recreation and Park Association held their spring quarterly at the Pitkin Community Center to discuss dog parks. Park and Recreation professionals across the state had the opportunity to visit our Dog Park as part of this session.

3. Cottone Field Lights.

Rich Lepore asked the status of the Cottone field lights. Ms. Bagley reported that the request for lights will be on a future Planning and Zoning meeting. She will let the board know when that date is set for the review of the lights. Currently a draft of rules for use of the lights has been developed by the athletic director and reviewed by town staff. A copy of that draft will be included in the May packet.

4. Budget Status.

Ms. Bagley reported that the CIP projects still in the budget include the driveway loop for the Community Center renovation at a cost of \$78,000, \$25,000 for caulking at Willard Pool and \$75,000 for the Little League field. The Town Council will review these projects and make a final determination by May 15th. Ms. Bagley gave board members an overview of her budget review with the Town Manager and the Town Council. She reported that one item of discussion was the water bill for the summer at Mill Woods Park. She explained that the water bill doubled last summer and the town and MDC are investigating what happened. To date there are still no answers, but the town will be looking at this very closely in the spring when the water is turned on in the park.

G. Motion to Adjourn.

Rich Lepore moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. the motion was seconded by Kevin Rogers and voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Bagley, Director
Parks and Recreation Department