

## Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes - January 26, 2006

The meeting was held in the Town Manager's conference room at the town hall at 7:00 p.m. and opened by Chairperson Richard Dobmeier. Members present were Chairperson Dobmeier, Daniel Silbo, Charles Wood, Richard Lepore, Timothy Verre and Kathleen Bagley, Director, Parks and Recreation Department.

### A. Public Comments.

No comments.

### B. [Minutes - December 15, 2005](#).

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

### C. Monthly Report - December 2005.

The monthly report was reviewed and accepted.

### D. Letters and Announcements.

No letters and announcements.

### E. Old Business.

#### 1. No Smoking Policy.

Chairperson Dobmeier asked Ms. Bagley the status of the research for this policy. She reported that to date they have not found any departments across the state that have a policy in place for their entire park system. Some towns are looking at some of their public places such as bleachers or stadiums. She also had a conversation with Health District Director, Paul Hutcheon, who said that it would be a good idea to have a program in place. He felt that it would be okay to have a policy because it sent the right message, but he did acknowledge it would be difficult to enforce it. Board members asked Ms. Bagley to continue to stay in touch with other towns to see how they approach the issue. She was also asked to get in touch with Mr. Thompson who attended the last Board meeting and give him an update on the status.

#### 2. Capital Improvement Program - 2006-2007.

Chairman Dobmeier asked Ms. Bagley the status of the process. She reported that she attended the CIAC meeting on Tuesday night, January 24, 2006, to present the Advisory Parks and Recreation Board's priorities for the projects for the upcoming budget year. She gave Board members an overview on this meeting and reported that the committee spent a lot of time discussing the design fee of \$70,000 for Phase 1A of the Mill Woods Master Plan. CIAC will review all the projects for the upcoming budget year and submit their priority list to the town manager for her budget. The town manager will determine the list of projects to be included in her budget for Council's review for the new budget year.

#### 3. Dog Park Update.

Chairman Dobmeier reported that he has been seeing advertising on television on the scroller for the Dog Park Committee. He reported that they are soliciting donations and looking for volunteers to help on the committee. Ms. Bagley reported that she has been attending their meetings and that they are moving forward with this project. They have been working on a design with the Engineering

Department and another committee has started looking at ways to raise funds for the dog park. Chairman Dobmeier asked if there is a dollar amount that they looking to raise for this park. Ms. Bagley reported that they are looking at a cost between \$20,000 and \$30,000. Most of this will be for fencing. Ms. Bagley reported that the Dog Park Committee is looking to have a special event at Cove Park on June 11. They will be using the Cove Park area for a dog walk fundraiser. She asked Board members if they have any problems granting the committee the use of the park. Board members had no problems with this request. Ms. Bagley explained that they are going to be determining the actual location of the walk. She anticipates they will be walking down State Street in front of the Motor Vehicle Department towards Main, down Main Street into the Cove Park boat launch parking lot, then along the path of the Cove, and end near the Solomon Welles House. These details will be finalized as they move forward with their planning. Mr. Wood asked that we identify on the Mill Woods Master Plan the location for the dog park. Ms. Bagley will make that notation on the map. Mr. Verre asked if additional signs could be placed around ballparks in town reminding people that it is a town ordinance to pick up after your dog. He reported that he has seen numerous owners letting their dogs run free in the parks without cleaning up after them. Ms. Bagley reported that the signs do go up, but they tend to disappear. She will get more signs up for the spring. She also reported that she had to lock the tennis courts this winter because numerous dogs were running in the courts and the owners were not picking up after them. Board members continued to discuss fundraising for the dog park. A question was made to pursue some of the national dog food companies and to check their Web sites for possible funding from these companies. Ms. Bagley had reported that the committee was potentially looking at naming a sponsor for the dog park and committee members thought that some sponsor could be dog food companies. Board members also suggested checking out sponsors at the Fidelco Dog events. Another idea that came up was to hand out dog bags at the dog walk with a sponsor's name printed on. This advertising could be a good reminder to people also to clean up after your dogs. Board members asked if advertising signs would go on the fence in the dog park. The committee is exploring fence advertising.

#### 4. Bocce Court Update.

Ms. Bagley reported that the Planning and Zoning Commission reviewed the Bocce court concept at their meeting on January 17, 2006. They approved this concept for the park. UNICO members were present at this meeting and suggested that they would try and build the courts in the spring. Board members are very appreciative of members of UNICO for this donation to the town park.

#### 5. Mill Woods Master Plan Sub-Committee Report.

Richard Lepore gave Board members a summary of the meeting on January 19, 2006. He reported that they are looking to begin fundraising efforts for the Master Plan. A discussion was held on the advertising signs for fences at our ballfields. Little League is looking to proceed with this and go through the proper process with town approvals. Some subcommittee members did not like the idea of advertising signs on the fences. They wanted to know how much money this could raise. Ms. Bagley also reported that at the Mill Woods Master Plan Sub-Committee meeting, they suggested having a joint meeting with the Park Board and their committee at the next Park Board meeting in February, which would be Thursday, February 23, 2006. At this meeting, they would invite users of Mill Woods Park to help brainstorm for fundraising ideas for Mill Woods Park. Representatives would be invited from the sports leagues, dog park, UNICO, skate park, Friends of the Nature Center and the public to attend this meeting to look at ways to pledge dollars for the construction of the Mill Woods Master Plan. Board members felt that this was a good idea and will move their February meeting to the Community Center.

#### F. New Business.

##### 1. Encroachment on Mill Woods Park Property (Snowmobiles/ATV's).

Chairmen Dobmeier reported that the letter sent by the Director to some of the neighbors at Mill

Woods Park was a good letter to make them aware of possible encroachment violations on town property. Ms. Bagley reported that on the Maple Street side of the park, someone has gone in and made some of the walking trails wider to fit an ATV or snowmobile and that the town needs to prevent this type of encroachment on town property. There has also been a problem with snowmobiles and ATV's in the park and the police have received complaints from senior citizens walking in the park of snowmobiles and ATV's almost knocking them down. Ms. Bagley reported that the letter was the first step in a process of making the neighbors aware of the park rules and making sure the park is safe for all its users.

2. Summer Concerts.

Richard Lepore asked Ms. Bagley the status of the summer concerts. Ms. Bagley reported that the Committee on Culture and the Arts will not be doing summer concerts this year. She has heard from the Wethersfield Historical Society who did some August concerts. They will move one or two of their August concerts into the month of July for the enjoyment of residents.

G. Adjournment.

Motion was adjourn was made by Richard Lepore and seconded by Daniel Silbo. Motion passed unanimously.