

## **Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes - Thursday, May 25, 2006**

The meeting was opened by Chairperson Richard Dobmeier at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Chairperson Richard Dobmeier, Daniel Silbo, Thomas Ragonese, Richard Lepore, Charles Wood, Kathleen Bagley, Director, Parks and Recreation Department and Andy Adil, Town Council Liaison.

### A. Public Comments.

No public comments.

### B. Minutes - March 23, 2006.

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

Since there was no quorum for the April 27, 2006, meeting, the notes from that meeting were reviewed.

### C. Monthly Report - April 2006.

Monthly report was reviewed by members. Chairperson Dobmeier asked about the feasibility of removing the temporary fencing around the skate park. Ms. Bagley reported that the fencing belongs to the contractor and that he is planning to do final work on the skate park. There were a few minor punch list items and the fence needs to be removed. Board members suggested getting permission from the contractor to remove it and having the grass mowed around the area since the grass has grown. Ms. Bagley will check with the contractor and will look into removing the fence and cleaning up that area.

Mr. Lepore asked about the status of the showmobile. Ms. Bagley reported that the new curtain for underneath the stage has been purchased and installed and will be used at the Memorial Day Parade. She also reported the stage lighting has been installed on the showmobile.

A discussion was held on the Committee on Culture and Arts not hosting the summer concerts at Cove Park this year. Ms. Bagley reported the committee felt that they were not getting the attendance at these concerts and decided not to have them. However, the Historical Society will be sponsoring concerts in front of the Keeney Cultural Center beginning July 25, August 1 and August 8 on Tuesday evenings. Ms. Bagley reported that there is no 4th of July band concert because of the difficulty of finding a band within the budget parameters. Daniel Silbo suggested contacting Steve Roslanek. He might be available to do this concert. Ms. Bagley will look into this.

### D. Letters and Announcements.

#### 1. Summer Brochure.

Board members reviewed the summer brochure and commented on the number of programs and summer camps offered for residents.

### E. Old Business.

#### 1. Budget Status.

Town Councilor, Andy Adil, gave a report to Board members on the status of the budget. He started with complimenting the new Nature Center building. He explained how the Town Council held their budget sessions at the Nature Center and were very impressed with the building, live animals and environmental displays. He reviewed the Parks and Recreation budget for Board members explaining that the Parks and Recreation budget was approved as submitted and additional money was granted

from Town Council for maintenance of town parks. The Parks and Recreation budget received an additional \$4,000 for maintenance for playground equipment and wood chips for town parks. He also reviewed the capital improvement projects for the parks that were approved by the Town Council. They included \$50,000 for the Mill Woods Master Plan architect, \$25,000 for the replacement of the Solomon Welles House sewer line, \$40,000 for the repair of the high school tennis courts, \$30,000 for the replacement of the Community Center gymnasium curtains, however, this funding will be part of the town's contribution to the Keane Foundation for the renovation of the gymnasium of the Community Center and an additional \$35,000 for the replacement of the underground tank at the Community Center.

Thomas Ragonese asked about the status of the Cottone Field lighting. Councilor Adil reported that it has gone to the Board of Education for approval of the design. After that review and approval, it will go to Town Council for their approval. The Town Council will then refer it to Planning and Zoning for an 8-24 review of the lighting. Once Planning and Zoning reviews it and makes a decision, it will then be sent back to the Town Council for their final decision.

## 2. Mill Woods Master Plan Status.

As Councilor Adil reported, funding is in place beginning July 1, 2006, for the hiring of an architect to design the Little League and soccer fields as the first priority in this project. Councilor Adil explained that he is talking with State Representative Paul Doyle on the proposed state grant of \$700,000. This grant has to be approved by the State Bond Council. He is working with Representative Doyle to get these funds approved at the state level.

A suggestion was made by Councilor Adil to display the Master Plan project in the library. Ms. Bagley will see that a display is put together. She also reported that Charles Wood is working with staff on developing a brochure on the Mill Woods Master Plan for distribution to residents. Ms. Bagley also reported that a table will be set up at the dog park walk on June 11 at Cove Park displaying the Master Plan of Mill Woods Park. The Town Council is interested in advertising on the ballfield fences in the town parks. Ms. Bagley reported that she has been working with Little League on this proposal and they will be putting together specifications for these advertising signs and going through the normal town process for approval. Councilor Adil reported that the Town Council has talked favorably about advertising signs for the outfield fences at the ballfields.

## F. New Business.

### 1. Review Dog Park Rules.

Chairperson Dobmeier reviewed the Dog Park Rules with Board members. Richard Lepore moved to approve the Dog Park Rules and recommend them to the Town Council. The motion was seconded by Thomas Ragonese and voted unanimously.

### 2. CIP Projects 2006-2007.

As reported earlier in the meeting, projects were approved for the upcoming budget year.

### 3. Status of Dog Park.

Ms. Bagley reported that their big fundraiser is set for Sunday, June 11, 2006, at Cove Park. This event will be a dog walk. People are encouraged to come and walk their dog and get sponsors for the day and these donations will be used for the dog park.

### 4. A discussion was held on the fence for the dog park. The Park Board made a recommendation that the fence color be green and match with fences in the rest of the park. Ms. Bagley will inform the Dog Park Committee of this recommendation. She saw no problem with the fence matching the existing

town specifications and the color.

5. Ms. Bagley reviewed a couple of special events coming up this summer beginning on June 3 with the opening of the Wethersfield Heritage Way Bike Trail in the Meadows. This event will take place at the Putnam Park parking lot at 10:00 a.m. with bikers riding to the town line of Rocky Hill through the Meadows. They will then turn around and come back for an 11:00 a.m. brief ceremony at the Putnam Park office building parking lot.
6. Ms. Bagley reported that the Town Council has approved the recommendation of allowing Rocky Hill residents to use the Wethersfield Cove boat launch area for the summer and pay resident rates because their boat launch area is under construction. This suggestion was brought up at previous Park Board meetings and the Board had no problem with this request. She also reported that Riverfront Recapture's boat launch area will be under construction. They have been granted permission by Town Council on Wednesday evenings to use Wethersfield Cove boat launch and pay resident rates for a weekly fishing tournament that is held on the Connecticut River. Also, in discussion with Riverfront Recapture is the opportunity to hold a Pro Am Fishing Tournament prior to the major bass tournament on the Connecticut River. Board members were in favor of this request to use the park as a way to help increase tourism in Wethersfield and utilize the Cove Park area.
7. Ms. Bagley reported that the Village Improvement Association and the Wethersfield Beautification Committee have donated funds for plantings around the new Nature Center building. Many of these plantings were put in over this previous weekend and it is looking beautiful. The Village Improvement Association also planted the Arbor Day tree at the entrance of the Nature Center during the town Arbor Day ceremony. Board members were very appreciative of these groups donating towards this project. They commented, once again, it is a good combination of private/public partnerships.
8. Summer Tour.

Board members decided to hold their summer tour at their June meeting. The suggestion was either to hold the meeting at the Nature Center or the Community Center depending on space availability and to meet at one of those facilities. Some of the places they would like to visit include the Skate Park, Nature Center, location for the dog park, the Bocce Courts and to tour the relocation of the Channel 14 TV station in the Community Center. The tour will begin at 6:00 p.m. and Ms. Bagley will notify members of the starting point and the location for the meeting that evening.

#### G. Adjournment.

Richard Lepore moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m. The motion was seconded by Charles Wood and voted unanimously.