

## **Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes - Thursday, September 22, 2005**

Members present Chairperson Richard Dobmeier, Daniel Silbo, Rich Lepore, Tom Ragonese and Kathleen Bagley, Director, Parks and Recreation Department.

The meeting was held at the Community Center, Fireside room. Prior to the meeting members went on a tour of the Community Center to see the ongoing changes to the facility. Ms. Bagley pointed out that the relocation of the Nature Center to the Moeller Home has opened up that space for additional use. Channel 16 will be using the old Nature Center office, reptile room and dark room and the Nature Center front room will be used as a program room for the facility. She also pointed out the preschool program has moved from the west wing to the activity room. This program is now licensed by the State of Connecticut. She explained that the gym floor will be replaced and a new electrical service will be brought from the main part of the building to the west wing.

### A. Public Comments.

No comments.

### B. Minutes.

Richard Lepore moved to approve the minutes. Motion seconded by Tom Ragonese and voted unanimously.

### C. Monthly Reports for July and August, 2005 were reviewed.

### D. Letters and Announcements.

1. Ms. Bagley reported that she received a letter from Greg Even regarding his resignation from the Advisory Parks and Recreation Board. Chairman Dobmeier asked Ms. Bagley to send a letter to Greg Even thanking him for his service to the Board.

### E. Old Business.

#### 1. Report on Mill Woods Master Plan.

Ms. Bagley reported on the Mill Woods Master Plan Committee meeting on September 15. She explained that Dr. Dest attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the soil study he completed for Mill Woods Park. She distributed copies of the soil study to members and did a brief summary of Dr. Dest's findings in the park. His report provided recommendations to include in the bid specifications for the design and construction of the ballfields. Ms. Bagley reported that the sub-committee received helpful information from the report. Please refer to enclosed minutes from the Mill Woods Master Plan Sub-Committee meeting. Board members discussed the next steps for the implementation of the Master Plan. Funding to begin the design process for the field will be important. She reported that the Master Plan Committee asked her to contact Richard Webb, the architect for the Mill Woods Master Plan, to determine an approximate cost for design fees for the priority fields, Little League lighted baseball field and the two new soccer fields. Board members talked about looking at the possibility of either outside fundraising to hire the architect to design the fields prior to receiving the state money or looking at the capital improvement plan and requesting funding for the architect design. Ms. Bagley will discuss these issues with the Mill Woods Master Plan Sub-Committee.

#### 2. Status on Skate Park Construction.

Ms. Bagley reported that the skate park is moving along. They have had some minor issues with the quality of the concrete. They are approximately two and one-half weeks behind schedule due to weather and concrete issues.

#### 3. Dog Park Process.

Ms. Bagley reported that she has spoken with the residents regarding the location of dog park in Mill Woods Park. Since the Board has approved this location, she will be making a recommendation to the Town Manager for the Town Council to approve this request. She anticipates going to Council in October for their review with a referral to Planning and Zoning for their review.

F. New Business.

1. Tag Sale.

Ms. Bagley reported that she received a call from a resident interested in utilizing Hanmer Park for a tag sale. This park is a very small and is located on River Road off Main Street just past State Street on the right hand side of the road. Neighbors want to have a neighborhood tag sale and utilize the park for the tag sale. Ms. Bagley explained that she had no problem allowing the neighbors to use the park, but since there is a charge for athletic field use she recommended a \$25 fee for the day for the use of the park. Motion was made by Rich Lepore and seconded by Tom Ragonese to approve a \$25 fee for a neighborhood tag sale at Hanmer Park. The motion passed unanimously.

2. No Smoking Policy.

Ms. Bagley distributed a request from a resident to the Town Manager to consider a "No Smoking Policy" in all town parks. Committee members were not in favor of this request because they felt enforcement would be very difficult. However, they asked Ms. Bagley to research what other towns do regarding this issue.

3. Athletic Field Lighting Policy.

Ms. Bagley reported that Board member, Tom Ragonese, had asked her to look into Planning and Zoning's review of athletic field lights for Cottone Field. Ms. Bagley distributed a copy of the draft policy that will be considered by the Planning and Zoning Commission. Ms. Bagley reported that she reviewed the Athletic Field Policy portion of the lighting policy from Planning and Zoning and feels it will meet the needs for Cottone Field. Committee members asked the time frame for approval of this lighting policy. Ms. Bagley explained that Town Planner, Peter Gillespie, reported that they would probably consider this policy at one of their November meetings.

G. Adjournment.

Tom Ragonese moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Motion seconded by Dan Silbo and voted unanimously.