

Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes - Thursday, October 27, 2005

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

A. Public Comments.

No comments.

B. [Minutes - September 22, 2005](#).

Thomas Ragonese moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Daniel Silbo and voted unanimously.

Ms. Bagley distributed a copy of the Mill Woods Master Plan Sub Committee minutes of Thursday, September 15, 2005. She explained that these minutes would give Board members an overview of the report from Dr. Dest regarding the soil study in Mill Woods Park. These minutes were inadvertently omitted from Board member's packet.

C. Monthly Report - September, 2005.

The September monthly report was reviewed.

D. Letters and Announcements.

1. Halloween Flyer - Reviewed by Board members.
2. Skate Park Opening.

Ms. Bagley confirmed with Board members that they received an invitation for the opening of the skate park for Saturday, October 29, 2005, at 10:00 a.m. at Mill Woods Park.

E. Old Business.

1. Report on Mill Woods Master Plan.

Mr. Ragonese reported that the committee was discussing the next steps for implementation of the Master Plan. He asked Ms. Bagley to give her report on a discussion with the architect, Mr. Richard Webb, concerning cost estimates for design. Ms. Bagley reported that with the state money of \$700,000 design costs for construction would be approximately 10 per cent or about \$70,000. Mr. Webb explained that 75 per cent of those costs would be for design and development of bid specifications with 25 per cent being for construction administration. Mr. Ragonese reported that the committee is requesting design funds in next year's capital improvement program. Mr. Ragonese also reported that one member was looking into having T-shirts made for fundraising.

2. Status on Skate Park.

As reported earlier, the skate park will open on Saturday, October 29, 2005.

3. Report on Dog Park Progress.

Ms. Bagley reported that the Town Council referred the matter to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a 8-24 referral. The Planning and Zoning Commission has granted the dog park a positive referral. The next step is to have a volunteer committee meeting. This meeting is scheduled

for November 2, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at the Eleanor Buck Wolf Nature Center. This meeting will organize volunteers for fundraising and designing the dog park. Once the design is completed, it will go back to Town Council and then to Planning and Zoning for their review.

4. Status of Bocce Courts.

Ms. Bagley reported that UNICO has committed to building the Bocce courts in Mill Woods Park. They have asked her to go to Town Council to begin the process of approval. These courts will be located in the picnic area in Mill Woods Park.

5. No Smoking Policy in Town Parks.

Staff are currently doing research on this idea. They are acquiring information from other towns in the area. Ms. Bagley reported that they are looking into Newport, Rhode Island because staff heard they have been successful with this policy. Also, South Windsor is looking at a policy for places of assembly in town parks such as bleachers or side lines of ballfields as opposed to the entire park. Staff are continuing their research and will report back to the Board with more information.

F. New Business.

1. Lights - Cottone Field.

Ms. Bagley reported that the Planning and Zoning public hearing for the town's policy on outdoor lighting will be November 15, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. at the Silas Deane Middle School. At that time, members of the public will be able to speak for and against any proposals on the outdoor lighting policy. Ms. Bagley had a draft policy of the Planning and Zoning's regulations for outdoor lighting and will make copies for members after the meeting. This policy is for all outdoor lighting in town with a special section devoted to athletic field lighting.

2. CIP Projects.

Ms. Bagley asked Board members to review last year's CIP projects in order to begin the process for the upcoming year. She reported that funding for this year included the Community Center gym floor at \$60,000 and certain basketball and tennis court repair for \$28,000. A new item added was the cost to remodel the Community Center for Community Access TV for \$40,000. Discussion was held on the types of projects to look at for the upcoming year. Tom Ragonese suggested that the Mill Woods Master Plan is still the Board's one number priority and we should look at ways to request funding to help with the construction of Phase I. He suggested identifying the entire amount for Phase I, but showing some different breakouts of costs for design fees and additional money to match with the state funds of \$700,000. He suggested \$70,000 for design fees for Mill Woods. Ms. Bagley suggested adding \$300,000 more for the Master Plan. These funds plus that state funds of \$700,000 would give the project \$1,000,000. This funding would be used for the first two priorities of the Advisory Board which were the lighted Little League field and the soccer field. Board members also reviewed the different fields identified for renovation in the capital improvement program and suggested some different priorities with fields based on their conditions. Ms. Bagley also reported that with the torrential rains this month, everyone was still playing on the ballfields and they were taking a major beating. She anticipated in the spring the fields will be in tough shape because no time will be available to repair them.

3. Tri-Town Pool Pass.

Ms. Bagley explained to Board members that the Parks and Recreation Departments in Newington, Wethersfield and Rocky Hill have been asked by their town managers to work together on collaborative efforts for more efficiency and cost savings. One of the first programs this group is looking at is each department's indoor pool season and their indoor pool passes. Each town offers

different hours for swimming at their indoor facility. A suggestion was made to allow residents from each town to use their town pool pass at the other two towns. In this way, more times would be available to residents to utilize the indoor pools. Board members had no problem with this proposal. The second proposal being discussed was a request from Rocky Hill Parks and Recreation for their residents to use the Cove boat launch area in the spring of 2006. Their boat launch area will be under construction at that time and they were looking for possible alternatives for their residents. Ms. Bagley explained that it is in the discussion stages and they would like to get some input from Board members regarding this issue. She mentioned one idea being considered was allowing Rocky Hill residents to buy a resident boat launch pass as opposed to a non resident launch pass. Board members discussed this and felt that it would be a good neighborly thing to offer, but to get in writing a reciprocal agreement that when our boat launch ramp becomes unavailable to our residents to have an agreement in place where we would be allowed to do the same thing in Rocky Hill.

4. Community Center Gym Floor.

Ms. Bagley reported that they are working on the bid specifications for the new floor. In discussions with contractors, they felt the tile was asbestos. Ms. Bagley has a state test report on this tile stating no asbestos. She retested the tile because the contractors were positive it was asbestos based on their experiences. The new test confirmed asbestos in the tiles, but not the glue. She is now working on bid specifications to remove the asbestos and then replace the floor. The asbestos removal will have an impact on the project budget. Once they receive bids on this project, she will have a better idea if additional funds will be needed to complete the project.

G. Adjournment.

Thomas Ragonese moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Motion was seconded by Richard Lepore and voted unanimously.