

**Park, Beach and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting
August 5, 2009**

Members Present

Daniel Worroll, Jr., Chairman
Ann Fabian, Vice Chairman
Patrick Dooling, Commissioner
Suzanne DiBiase, Commissioner
Kerri Rowland, Commissioner

Absent

Public Works Representative

Also Present

William McCarthy, Recreation Director
Jessica Blacketter, Alderman
Judith Toohey, Alderman

The Park, Beach and Recreation Commission had their Regular Meeting on Wednesday, August 5, 2009, in City Hall. Chairman Worroll welcomed everyone present to the August meeting calling the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. He asked Alderwoman Toohey to lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Worroll stated consideration of the minutes of the Special Meeting held on July 1, 2009 had been left off the agenda and stated he would entertain a motion to add approval of those minutes to this agenda.

Commissioners' Rowland and Fabian made and seconded a motion to add to the Agenda consideration of the minutes of the Special Meeting held on July 1, 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

I. Consideration of the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on July 1, 2009.

Commissioners' Rowland and Dooling made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on July 1, 2009 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Park, Beach and Recreation Commission held on July 1, 2009.

Commissioners' Rowland and Fabian made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2009 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

II. Public Statement

S. Borer – 204 Anderson Avenue – stated he wished to speak concerning the cell tower proposal here in Milford and the location. He stated Eisenhower Park is not that location and he was here to speak as to why. Reading from a prepared statement he stated he considered this blind judgment. He also commented about people just coming in and out of the park, which had to stop. He spoke as to the above ground wires as a result of the Siting Counsel. He asked the Commission to vote this down adding this Board's responsibility is the recreational activities. He also stated when someone comes in and physically changes the park he considers this development. He questioned the Mayor's disregard of the \$650,000. He spoke as to the Plan of Conservation and Development, the Building Department and the Kimball Report claiming there is City mismanagement. He suggested perhaps the Board of Aldermen should step in and advise over matters that concern Eisenhower Park.

C. LaPenna – Saley Road – stated last month he was introduced as the individual who wished to have a field dedicated for a coach who has gone beyond. He asked the Commission to consider naming the soccer field at

Milford Academy after Coach White. He went on to speak personally about Coach White and the impact he has had on his life. Mr. LaPenna stated he find himself emulating Coach White when coaching his own soccer teams. He stated this would be a fitting gesture to Coach White while so many of his former players are still around and could appreciate all he has done for soccer in Milford.

H. Healy – West River Street – stated he is the current President of the Milford United Soccer Club (MUSC). He stated he does not personally know Mr. White, but recalls speaking with a man at the soccer fields over the years about soccer only to find out it was Mr. White he had been speaking with. Mr. Healy stated it was only recently that he found out it was Mr. White who was one of the co-founders of MUSC. He stated while he doesn't know Mr. White that well, what he does know and came to speak about tonight is what the league has become today and the bond it forms between a child and parent. He stated there are almost 1,000 kids playing soccer in MUSC. He stated this is an incredible game and it is because of one man, Mr. White.

J. Batista – 74 Dale Drive – stated he wanted the Commission know that MUSC would incur all costs to put to a sign, building permits, etc. He stated he could go on and on about some of the same experiences he has had with Coach White. Mr. Batista stated he wished to point out that the YMCA soccer field is named after the other founder of MUSC and that it would be a great honor for these co-founders of this incredible league. He also stated it would be a great honor for a man who is alive and could see the impact he has had on Milford. He went on to share a personal story of one of his players who has been through a devastating family tragedy and because of the support of MUSC she has pulled through and continues to play soccer in the league.

J. Prisco – 11 Riverdale Road – stated he is against the cell tower at Eisenhower Park and that it has no place at Eisenhower Park. He stated he has been speaking about Eisenhower Park for over 4 years. He reiterated this should not be at the park and implored to the Board vote against it.

III. Correspondence

1. Request for use of Tri-Beach – Director McCarthy stated he received a telephone call from Rick Martin who represents the Drum & Bugle Corps. He explained a few years ago he allowed this group to stay at the Tri Beach center however due to some issue he vowed this would not happen again. Director McCarthy stated he wished to make the Commission aware of this and why the request was turned down.

2. Washington Field – Insurance questions – Director McCarthy reported there had been some property damage as a result of a softball game. He also reported there was an injury when a baseball player was hit by a bat. He stated he just wished to bring these two matters to the attention of the Commission and point out the Recreation Department has gone to great lengths to limit these types of incidents, such as restricting the number of foul balls for a batter and restricting certain types of bats. He also reported it has been a rough season with regard to the weather.

3. Volleyball play at Hawley Avenue beach – Director McCarthy reported he received a complaint someone who was at the beach and was struck by a flying volleyball. The complainant expressed concern there could be other injuries and also that there is a sign that states “no ball playing on the beach”. Director McCarthy stated he has asked the lifeguards to use their best judgment when allowing play when there are beach goers in that area.

IV. Director's Report

1. Picnic Tables and storage bin at Walnut Beach Devon Rotary Pavilion/Bocce Courts – Director McCarthy reported they bought picnic tables and have installed a storage bin. He stated the tables also provide the capability of providing shade. He stated the storage bin would store the equipment to keep the bocce courts in good playing condition and that the public would be provided the code to access the bins to gain access to the equipment.

Commissioner Rowland asked if the picnic tables were purchased with monies out of this budget or last year's budget.

Director McCarthy responded from last year.

2. Walnut Beach Grant Commission – Director McCarthy reported a Commission had been formed at a meeting last week with the Mayor, himself and Mr. Gregory, Community Development, Ald. Manning and Joe Garbus. He stated the Commission would supervise and use the \$1,000,000 grant for improvements to Stowe Farm and the Walnut Beach area. He stated the committee would be compromised of 5 people with Mr. Gregory attending as the Executive Secretary. He stated the goal is to make Milford more attractive and fill storefronts as well as enhancing the area. He stated the main focus would also be to provide a state of the art facility for the lifeguards and having proper storage for equipment needs. He explained the need to house the zodiac boat.

3. Tom Ivers - Department of Energy Grant – Director McCarthy reported the goal is to save Milford energy dollars. He went on to explain the proposal from Mr. Ivers. He stated he would keep the Commissioner advised as to developments.

4. Devon Day – Director McCarthy reported he had a meeting today with the Mayor and Nancy Seltzer concerning Devon Day, which will be held on September 13, 2009. He stated the Recreation Department would reschedule events they may have that day off those fields. He also stated Ms. Seltzer would be contacting Mr. Kolwicz as well.

V. Commissioner Reports

1. Bodie's Place update – Chairman Worroll reported he attended a meeting with the Mayor, Mr. and Mr. Vaccino and Mr. Kolwicz regarding an overview as to Bodie's Place and where they stand. He explained Public Works involvement with regard to the landscaping. Chairman Worroll stated there still was some work to do with regard to handicap spaces and also the water system. He stated project is progressing along and that he would continue to keep the Commission advised.

2. Milford Academy Refreshment Stand Update – Chairman Worroll deferred to Vice Chairman Fabian who reported they are trying to work out an arrangement to share the stand. She stated she has met with the President of the Shoreline Football program. She stated she will be contacting Milford United Soccer. She stated she would report back to the Commission at next month's meeting.

Chairman Worroll added he attended the Walnut Beach Swing Festival and Walnut Beach Day, adding the rain did not put a damper on the day's festivities. He also reported the annual Oyster Festival would be held later this month.

Commissioner Rowland stated she wished to recognize and congratulate two softball teams in the Milford International League. She stated the girls Babe Ruth 10U won the State title and the girls 11-12 softball team won the State title and are currently playing in Albany, New York. She stated they have a 3-1 record going into the semi-finals this weekend. She wished them well in their quest to make the National Softball World Series in Oregon later this month.

Vice Chairman Fabian commented earlier this Commission approved the permit for the Servants of Christ to hold a motorcycle bike nights at Gulf Beach the third Thursday of the month. She stated she attended last month and reported it was calm and very inspiring. She also noted they held a 50/50 raffle with the proceeds going to Camp Happiness and that the group was thrilled the City had such a program and they were proud to make a donation to this very worthy cause.

VI. Unfinished Business

1. McCann Natatorium lease extension update – Director McCarthy reported they had a meeting concerning the lease at the McCann Natatorium. He stated there are several items which are being reviewed. He also reported it was agreed upon the Public Works Director would like an assessment done of the facility before going any further with negotiations and that another meeting would be forthcoming.

2. N.E.M.B.A. – Director McCarthy reported this is the New England Mountain Bike Association and that Mr. Woyciesjes is still attempting to get approvals from all the City agencies involved. He stated the group would like to improve upon the trails in the park, but there has been concern as to what exactly they are doing. Director McCarthy also stated there have been a lot of rumors surfacing, but with the help of N.E.M.B.A. they would be able to curtail some of these. He stated they would be meeting in the next week or so.

Commissioner Rowland asked if that meeting was open to the public and if so, when it would be held.

Director McCarthy stated he did not know the exact date, but it would be an afternoon meeting and would be held in the Mayor's conference room. He stated he would get that information to her.

3. Cell tower – Eisenhower Park – Director McCarthy deferred to Chairman Worroll.

Chairman Worroll stated after last month's public hearing he heard some very disturbing comments made concerning this Commission, especially comments this commission is political. He stated the Park, Beach and Recreation Commission oversees more than 250 parks and beaches. He went on to state that in his mind this Commission has never been a political Board. Chairman Worroll stated he and Commissioner DiBiase trekked Foote Field down the third base line and into the woods until they came upon the cell tower. He stated they also went to Flax Mill Lane to get an idea what these residents would be looking at through their backyards. He stated at the public hearing what they heard was most people do not want this at the YMCA and that Eisenhower Park would be a better location. He suggested perhaps there should have been three locations suggested; YMCA, Eisenhower Park or nowhere in Milford. He stated it was time for someone to put their foot

down and say no and stated he could not support any cell tower at Eisenhower Park. He stated it is a park noting there are no cell towers on any municipal properties that are state run.

Commissioner Rowland stated she has given this great thought and that she too took a ride to Eisenhower Park to look at the location and echoed the comments of the Chairman and stated she would not support this.

Chairman Worroll stated he would entertain a motion to approve the cell tower.

Commissioner DiBiase made a motion to approve a cell tower at Eisenhower Park. Hearing no second, she withdrew her motion.

Chairman Worroll stated a motion was needed for action on this item.

Commissioner Fabian suggested a motion be made to deny the cell tower.

Commissioners' Rowland and Fabian made and seconded a motion to deny a cell tower being placed at Eisenhower Park. Motion carried unanimously.

VII New Business

1. Proposal for a concession at Red Bush Field – Jean Werner.

Director McCarthy introduced Ms. Werner to the Commission explaining Ms. Werner had come to him regarding the idea of a concession stand at Red Bush field.

Ms. Werner stated she would like to have a concession stand at Red Bush field during lacrosse season. She stated the building structure (12 x 20) would be donated.

Chairman Worroll asked what would happen with the structure during the winter season.

Ms. Werner explained the plan is to make it a permanent fixture; however if they were unable to do that she stated they could look into taking it away at the end of the season.

Commissioner Rowland asked if this would be run through the Lacrosse league.

Ms. Werner responded she was doing this personally.

Commissioner Rowland asked where the proceeds would go.

Ms. Werner replied they would go back to the league. She stated she has spoken with the league president and received approval to move forward with this. She reiterated everything is being donated with regard to the building and equipment.

Commissioner Rowland asked if this was propane based.

Ms. Werner responded yes.

Commissioner Fabian asked about plumbing, i.e. for the cleaning of utensils and other possible health department issues.

Chairman Worroll summed up stating this would be a permanent fixture with a cooking apparatus outside of the building with most of the items being donated. He stated he would like to get more information from some of the other city agencies before proceeding further.

Director McCarthy commented one of the major concerns would be the safety of the building from vandals. He stated it is a secluded area with a history of vandalism.

Ms. Werner stated they have looked into the possibility of concrete walling to protect the structure.

Director McCarthy suggested the possibility of some type of mobile vending.

Ms. Werner stated the building would not just be for the snack stand, but would also be used for storage for the league.

Director McCarthy spoke as to the leasing of storage units and cited as an example the unit at West Shore Recreation, which is utilized by the Milford Elks football program.

Chairman Worroll reiterated they should run this through some of the other department and get feedback. He also pointed out this has traditionally been an area where parking has been an issue. He suggested Director McCarthy send out a letter requesting input from the various departments, i.e. health, fire, police, etc. and that the Commission would consider this next month under "Unfinished Business".

Director McCarthy asked if she reports to anyone.

Ms. Werner stated S. McGinley is the league president and is in favor of this.

Director McCarthy stated he would send out the letter and report back to the Commission next month.

VIII. **Adjourn**

Being no further business to discuss, Commissioners Fabian and Rowland made and seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

The Park, Beach and Recreation Commission will hold their next regular meeting on Wednesday, September 2, 2009 in Conference Room C of the Parsons Government Complex.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber, Recording Secretary
Acting for Sandra L. Betzig

(Note: Minutes are in draft form until approved by the Commission)