

Park, Beach and Recreation Commission  
Regular Meeting  
November 7, 2007

The Park, Beach and Recreation Commission held their regular meeting on Wednesday, November 7, 2007 in Conference Room C of the Parsons Complex. Chairman Worroll called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Members Present

Daniel Worroll, Jr. Chairman  
Patrick Dooling  
Ann Fabian  
Jacqueline Munk

Absent

James Belluscio  
Ald. Garbus, Liaison

Also Present

William McCarthy, Recreation Director  
Ald. Rowland, Liaison  
Ald. Toohey

Consideration of Minutes

Mrs. Fabian and Mr. Dooling made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 5, 2007 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Statement – none

Chairman Worroll took the opportunity to thank both Ald. Rowland and Garbus for their interest and dedication to this Commission in their capacity as aldermanic liaisons.

Ald. Rowland thanked the commission for giving both liaisons the opportunity to interact and contribute to this group's work. She added it had been an honor to serve as a liaison and added the commission should be proud of the city's Recreation Department.

Chairman Worroll echoed her comments and stated the department and its staff excels throughout the state.

Correspondence

1. Director McCarthy reported he received a telephone call regarding the proposal of a resolution for dedicating park benches. When he spoke with Mr. Gregory, Community Development Director about this it was suggested this matter be placed on hold until early November. He added it is hopeful that this commission will work with Community Development in getting the program started.
2. Director McCarthy received an email from Michael Casey regarding his previous inquiry to install two bocce courts at Walnut Beach (adjacent to the pavilion area). He added that Mr. Casey has been successful in obtaining donations to financially assist this proposal.

Mrs. Fabian asked how the public could obtain access to the bocce balls and she was told lifeguards would provide that access. Further, Director McCarthy stated a storage location near the pavilion would be excellent and he had conversation with the Mayor regarding that possibility.

3. Director McCarthy reported on his conversation with city resident, Lisa Vasino, regarding construction of a "boundless" playground similar to those in other communities. He explained such a playground is solid surface composite play area, accessible to youngsters

with special needs. He added other communities had built similar playgrounds with private funding and some installations have had a cost of \$300,000. He stated he personally felt the most desirable location for such a playground would be at Eisenhower Park or perhaps on the Milford Academy property, adding adequate parking would also be required.

4. Director McCarthy explained that complaints had been received regarding the problem of water lines being turned off at various parks. He explained the Regional Water Authority decided to turn off the water supply for the winter earlier than usual, thus disrupting the playing at two fields but he was hopeful to regain that playing time in the spring.

Mrs. Fabian was hopeful this problem could be remedied for the future so as not to impact the end of season playing time.

Similarly, Chairman Worroll stated he received a call from Allan Brandt who had concerns about the overall plan for Milford Green and Chairman Worroll invited him to future meetings of this commission.

He also received complaints that the portalets at the fields/beaches were removed too early this past autumn and he felt the public would like to see the portable bathroom equipment remain on site until November 1. He noted the state removes their portalets from Silver Sands on or about November 1.

Chairman Worroll also stated he received a call from Ald. Beirne regarding the an inquiry for a luminaries lighting display during the upcoming holiday season in memory of deceased veterans. It was suggested that either the harbor area or the cities green be considered as a location. Ald. Beirne would be referring the individual who contacted him to Director McCarthy.

Director McCarthy stated he had already spoken with Ald. Beirne and suggested inviting the individual who had made the inquiry to this Commission's December meeting.

#### Director's Reports

1. In conjunction with Milford Collaborative, the Board of Education and the Recreation Department, a new program, *Social Skills*, has been developed for children ages 7-14. The classes will be offered, weekly starting 1/8/08 at the Egan Center, for two different age appropriate groups and will teach and instill social skills.
2. Director McCarthy reported that Paul Piscitelli has begun winter scheduling for Board of Education buildings.
3. Director McCarthy stated he has met twice with Majority Leader Amann and Mayor Richetelli regarding possible use of the West Shore Neighborhood Center as a facility for Boys and Girls Club of America. He added representatives from the Club have joined in the discussion, have toured the current center and viewed aerial photos and demographics. Director McCarthy added the Recreation Dept. would still want use of the facility for some of the existing programs and would insist on a gymnasium addition as a capital outlay item. He stated that pending bonding for this project, it would definitely be a tremendous asset for that area of the city.

Discussion ensued regarding potential parking issues and possible relocation of the existing playground area.

4. Director McCarthy reported that excavation has begun for the installation of the new playground equipment at the Andrews Avenue playground and it is hopeful the project would be completed by mid-November.
5. Director McCarthy referred to previous discussion regarding researching implementation of a background screening policy for volunteers and Recreation Dept. staff. He stated he has been preparing proposals of consent waiver forms for review by the City Attorney. He also referred to pricing for such service and noted the National Center for Safety Initiatives has proposed \$25 per person for a thorough background check.

Mrs. Fabian referred to the Little League's implementation of a similar search that would be primarily screening for sex offenders. She felt theoretically it is a good idea but there would be so many checks and balances necessary to ensure that people's privacy is not affected.

Chairman Worroll shared informational material with Director McCarthy regarding background checks and suggested the data be shared with the City Attorney as she prepares to guide the Commission in the right direction.

Mrs. Munk questioned if the city relies on the fingerprinting done at the Police Dept. and she questioned the charge for that service.

Discussion ensued regarding the cost involved vs. the protection of our children. It was suggested that Director McCarthy obtain a copy of the Milford Board of Education's screening policy.

Director McCarthy added his department has tried to get feedback from other towns and he referred specifically to the town of Mansfield's policy language which states, "it is our goal to provide recreational programs for the children to feel safe in as well as protecting the city."

6. Director McCarthy reported on a meeting held with the Mayor, Barbara Milton, Vincent Piselli and various other parties regarding their attempt to put together a Steering Committee for open space and focus on cleaning and maintaining open space not only at Eisenhower Park but throughout the city. He explained the focus of the meeting was not only on cleaning and maintaining open space, but also on the matter of security and financing.
7. Director McCarthy stated Speaker Amann, the Mayor, the Superintendent of Schools, Board Chair Kopazna, and Ms. Garagliano, Principal of Jonathan Law recently met at the high school when the city was presented with two checks from the State to compensate the city for the construction of Pierson Park (\$30,000) and a check for work done on the Law baseball field (\$20,000).
8. Director McCarthy noted he recently attended a community luncheon for various city departments and program directors. The event was hosted by Dr. Polansky, Superintendent of Schools and was primarily for him to introduce his plan for the city and the Board of Education to work together for the betterment of the entire community.

9. It was reported that the Mayor has begun his annual budget meeting sessions with department heads and the message received was that all proposed city budgets must be flat for 08-09.

### Commissioner Reports

Chairman Worroll reported that the parking lot at the Orchards Golf Course has been paved and will be lined very shortly. He added the Golf Commission had reported their year-to-date golf round numbers are up over last year.

He further referred to the proposal for a series of movie nights to be held on Milford's Green next year. He reminded the commissioners that there is a policy which stipulates there must be a 3-week interval between events held on the Green in order for the grass to be refreshed and reseed.

### Old Business

Director McCarthy reminded the commission of the previously tabled discussion (8/07 meeting) regarding sign design/location at Washington Field and dedication of the field in the name of Edward T. Austin.

Mrs. Fabian and Mrs. Munk made and seconded a motion to dedicate and name the existing Washington Field the Edward T. Austin Recreation Complex. Motion carried unanimously.

Going back in discussion, Mr. Dooling asked if there had been any feedback on the Movie Night and Director McCarthy stated as far as he knew there had been none.

### New Business

Director McCarthy stated that in his discussion with Paul Piscitelli, Softball Director, it is felt it is time to revisit the softball league entry fees adding it had been 30 years since the fees have been changed and the proposal is to increase the fees from \$100 to \$200.

Mrs. Munk inquired as to the average for leagues in other cities.

Director McCarthy explained that some towns pay umpires directly from the teams they have registered but in Milford only administrative fees are charged and the teams pay umpires directly. He felt Milford is below what other towns may charge and Milford's playing season is longer. He also felt this could also be a possible source of funding for the Public Works Dept. who maintain the fields.

Mrs. Fabian and Mr. Dooling made and seconded a motion to increase the softball league entry fees from \$100 to \$200 and also to stipulate that money be earmarked for Recreation Department budget use. Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Candido  
Acting Recording Secretary