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**PARK, BEACH and RECREATION COMMISSION** Milford City Clerk  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**APRIL 6, 2022**

The Park, Beach and Recreation Commission held their Regular Meeting on Wednesday, April 6, 2022, at Lisman Landing. Director Garfield called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**Commissioners Present:**

D. Worroll  
B. Bevan  
A. Fabian  
K. Rowland  
F. Shashinka

**Also Present:**

Director B. Garfield  
Ald. W. Willis  
Ald. D. German

**Public Comment**

B. Wasilewski – 280 Mary Ellen Terrace – stated he is a member of the Milford Pickleball Association with the Milford Recreation Department, the fastest growing sport that provides both physical and social health benefits. He stated there are 148 resident members and 146 non-resident members which allows for the maximum use of courts and players. He continued reading from a prepared statement explaining the history of the use of the courts. Mr. Wasilewski stated registration open this year in February and the monies were then returned. He stated they have not had the courtesy of a response to their questions from various city departments. Mr. Wasilewski stated they deserve better. He suggested the best solution is to go back to the way the play was structured last year. He stated he came tonight to ask the Commission to listen and hear the group of avid pickleball players.

V. Kovak – 60 Ocean Avenue – she has met lots of new friends from all over and the league is more competitive and social. She also pointed out the group brings business to Milford because they dine out in Milford restaurants. She said everyone should be allowed to be involved in this growing sport.

B. Nubert (sp) – 12 Seaview Avenue – stated when all the courts are open you can circulate more players per court. He stated the reality is many times the people that come are non-residents. Mr. Nubert went on to talk about the sport of pickleball and that is involves circulation of courts and the influx of players from out of town keeps the game moving. He stated this new rule disrupts the game.

P. Vasillas – 111 Broadway – she thanked all those who brought the game of pickleball to Milford, adding she really does not know who is in charge, or manages the program. Ms. Vasillas stated there was no announcement that registration would be capped at

250 but agreed the Milford Pickleball Association should not utilize all the courts in Milford, but a compromise should be arrived at so Milford taxpayers can play. She stated residents should have priority on play. She encouraged the Commission to find a compromise, so Milford taxpayers play giving priority to residents. She also suggested the idea of having ambassadors who would coordinate the program

### **Consideration of the Minutes of the March 2, 2022, meeting.**

Commissioners' Fabian and Rowland made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2022, meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Correspondence**

None

**Director's Report** - Director Garfield reported the department is gearing up for their summer programs. He reported the summer playground program is just about full at all four (4) sites). Director Garfield stated registration opened today for the Camp Happiness program which has been aligned with the summer camp program. He also reported the "I Can Bike Program" is just about full. Director Garfield reported the Grove Circle Playground is done and looks super nice. He also reported on Brewster, Clarkson and Francis Fields that are completed.

Chairman Worroll asked about softball fields and which ones are playable.

Director Garfield stated only Washington and Foote Fields are available. He also reported the lighting project at Fowler Field just began.

Commissioner Bevan asked about the bathroom facilities at the beaches and when they would be opening.

Director Garfield stated late April to early May.

Commissioner Bevan asked what the hours would be.

Director Garfield stated the hours are generally 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

### **Commissioner Reports**

- a) Golf Course Commission – Chairman Worroll reported the course is open. He also reported the tree and bunker work is nearly complete.
- b) Bench Dedication Program – Director Garfield reported less than an hour ago eight (8) benches were delivered but have not been built yet. A brief discussion ensued.

Commissioner Fabian recalled this Commission has been talking about putting together an inventory of all benches. Discussion resumed.

### **Unfinished Business**

None

### **New Business**

Commissioners' Rowland and Fabian made and seconded a motion to add discussion concerning Pickleball to the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Shashinka Director Garfield how he planned to resolve the issue of residents/non-resident concerning pickleball plan. She stated at the recent Board of Aldermen meeting people were cut short and stifled not having the ability to speak.

Commissioner Rowland pointed out Eisenhower Park is federal funded. She stated everyone should have the opportunity to be heard.

Commissioner Fabian asked the role of this Commission.

Commissioner Rowland suggested it would be in everyone's best interest to go back to the way it was the previous year. She also noted a speaker tonight suggested having an ambassador. Commissioner Rowland stated this Commission needs to find out what the pickleball membership wants, how many people are there on a daily basis, etc. She stated this Commission should make a motion or come to a consensus.

Commissioner Fabian stated she need clarification as to who is making the decision and how it is made. She also asked how they got to this point, and what changed from last year.

Chairman Worroll stated the Recreation Department is in charge of the courts and this Commission establishes policies.

Director Garfield explained the process with the department supervisors. He also spoke of the success of the pickleball sport following last year's tournament. He also pointed out there are pickleball courts at Point Beach, Anderson Avenue playground, Fowler Field and Eisenhower Park, but everyone want to play at Eisenhower Park. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding days of play, hours, and courts.

Following discussion, Director Garfield stated he would bring the new proposal before this Commission at its next monthly meeting.

Being no further business, Commissioners' Fabian and Rowland made and seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathleen A. Kennedy  
Recording Secretary

