

Park, Beach, and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting
June 5, 2013

Members Present

Daniel Worroll, Jr., Chairman
Ann Fabian, Vice Chairman
Julie Nash, Commissioner
Kerri Rowland, Commissioner

Absent

Public Works Representative
Nick Veccharelli, Jr., Aldermanic Liaison
Anthony Giannattasio, Aldermanic Liaison
Frank Giustino, Commissioner

Also Present

Paul Piscitelli, Recreation Director

The Park, Beach and Recreation Commission held their Regular Meeting on **June 5, 2013**, at 7:30 p.m. in Conference C. Chairman Worroll called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

I. Consideration of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Park, Beach and Recreation Commission held on May 1, 2013.

Commissioner Rowland made a **Motion** to accept the **May 1, 2013** minutes as read.
Chairman Worroll seconds **Motion**.

Motion unanimously carried.

II. Public Statement

The time limit granted to each speaker shall be limited to three (3) minutes. None.

III. Correspondence

Director Piscitelli – None.

IV. Director's Report

- 1. Beach Opening – Director Piscitelli** – Beach opened on Memorial Weekend with Monday being a heavy day. There is a full complement of life guards and the beaches are in excellent condition as a result of the work of the Public Works Department, State of CT working on the boardwalk and the various volunteers who worked to clean the Hurricane Sandy storm debris.
- 2. Program Report – Director Piscitelli** – Summer program registration is in full swing with the pace exceeding more registrations than in the past. With the programs growing there will be a full summer of activity of playground programs.
- 3. Anderson Avenue Basketball Court – Director Piscitelli** – Construction began Tuesday, June 4, and progressing at an excellent pace. Pending weather conditions project should be completed by July and will look into having a ceremonial opening.
- 4. Skatepark Renovation – Update – Director Piscitelli** – Received good input from park users and prepared a spread sheet detailing wants and concerns of the users and how they graded the three concepts that were prepared. The project committee will get together to discuss feedback and come up with a concept or either a hybrid of all three designs. Project to be awarded in July and with construction to commence in September or October as to not interrupt the season. A grand opening will be planned for the spring.

5. **Water Safety Awareness Day – Director Piscitelli** – In conjunction with the YMCA the Milford Recreation Department will participate in a water safety program with a three hour block of activities for safety awareness along with demonstrations from various agencies. Program will be held at Walnut Beach on Saturday, June 22.

V. Commissioner's Report

1. **Golf Course Committee – Chairman Worroll** – Golf course committee will meet next week. The golf courses are in great shape, rounds continue to go up and carts are being used.
2. **Walnut Beach Enhancement Committee – Chairman Worroll** – Walnut Beach Committee Members have stressed some concerns. One being the flooding on both sides coming into Walnut Beach and possibly the pavilion. Photos of the flooding were presented to the Board by Chairman Worroll. The consensus among the WB Committee Members that the problem is one of two situations: one being there is a catch basin that may be clogged or may just need to be cleaned out. Chairman Worroll suggested a letter be sent to Public Works to check it out. The second being there may be soil at the bottom of the basin which may have to be dug up and replaced with gravel. Chairman Worroll feels this is a major problem and would like Public Works to look at this and suggest any guidance on how to proceed correcting this problem as soon as possible.

Another matter is the fencing that goes between the parking lot and sand. This was the dune fencing that was damaged by the hurricanes. It would be a good idea to replace or repair it which would be a good thing to do.

In addition, regarding the Burt-Monroe Pier – it was mentioned that a jagged pipe sticks up at low tide which is a hazard as it cannot be seen during high tide when people walk in the area. Director Piscitelli – advised that a danger, no swimming buoy was purchased to be affixed on this pipe which will be visible during high tide.

Chairman Worroll advised that the dune crossings are finished and is handicapped accessible. Photos were displayed depicting this.

The sign located at Tudor and Naugatuck, Welcome To Walnut Beach, has been placed as well as completion of the landscaping.

3. **Bench Dedication Program – Vice Chairman Fabian** – Has received a request for a bench dedication from friends and volunteers of the Rape Crisis Center. The requested location for this bench is in the Morningside Area which will have to be investigated as this location may not be under the Recreation Department's jurisdiction. Director Piscitelli will look into this. Piscitelli also mentioned the article in *The Patch* regarding a vehicular fatality resulted in a request for a bench dedication as well as calls generated for interest in bench dedications. In addition, the Milford Dental Society has requested a dedication to Milford's Dr. Rausch who recently passed away. Discussion followed regarding inventory, location of bench sites and posting information regarding bench dedications and applicable information on the website in the future, and the prospect of locating benches at Caswell Cove.

VI. Old Business

1. **Milford Youth Lacrosse – Request to construct a hitting wall.** Director Piscitelli advised this

item was discussed at last month's meeting.

Sean McGinley, 106 Shell Avenue, Milford, President Milford Youth Lacrosse, is present to respond to issues and safety concerns regarding the installation of a hitting wall. Commissioner Rowland stressed safety concerns and wanted to know if the wall will be used as part of practice plans, and/or open for free play and how McGinley envisions the safety and supervision of the children since they vary in age as the area is very active with children especially on a Saturday. McGinley advised that this hitting wall is modeled after the one at Eisenhower Park because of the practice technique and wants to duplicate this at Red Bush. The hitting wall will be located in the field. Once Lacrosse is over, it will not be monitored by the Lacrosse program. He also feels that where the wall is located in the field supervision should not be a problem. Vice Chairman Fabian asked if playing one sport prohibits another from being playing if Lacrosse is being played on the grass and basketball is being played on the other side. McGinley confirms this is not a problem. Further discussion followed regarding utilization of the field for other sports such as soccer and the matter of scheduling and posting signs for safety purposes and awareness. Additional discussion regarding signs determined that Director Piscitelli will look into proper signage. Also if approvals are necessary by Inland/Wetland and the City Attorney's office regarding 8-24.

Commissioner Rowland makes a **Motion** to approve the Milford Youth Lacrosse League to construct a hitting wall at Red Bush Field.

Commissioner Nash seconds **Motion**.

Discussion. None

Motion unanimously carried.

VII. New Business

- 1. Sandy Ground Project Playground – Director Piscitell** – Gave a brief overview and introduction to the Sandy Hook Playground Project. This is being presented as a matter of information with no action to be taken at this time.

Piscitelli gave a brief synopsis of the history of the project and of the New Jersey Firefighters Mutual Benevolent Association (NJFMBA). When the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy occurred, the NJFMBA came up with the idea to build playgrounds as a memorial to each of the children and adults who lost their lives with a theme associated with the child and the adult. The playgrounds are 2600 sq. ft. and 85% of the playground will be the basic cookie cutter style with 15% of the theme of the child or adult for whom the playground will be dedicated. The NJFMBA and Milford Professional Firefighters Association, along with Sandy Hook Families and volunteers from the community will construct the playground making this a community project. Construction will take only a few days with the siblings of the families to be the general contractors, per se. Funding will be provided by fundraising, private funding along with donations of equipment and materials to make this happen. Two of the families affected by the Newtown tragedy have a connection to Milford and have asked that a playground be built here in Milford.

In determining a site to house the playground it was deemed that The Academy located on Gulf Street was appropriate since this is where Camp Happiness has there program and the playground would be utilized to a great extent. In addition, it is centrally located, highly visible and handicapped accessible and will have its own identity. Members of the NJFMBA will be coming to Milford to look and approve the site in the near future and then will meet with the PBR Board

regarding this. No decisions need to be made at this time as there will be additional information forthcoming in the near future. All commissioners were enthused about this idea and look forward to meeting with committee members and the NJFMBA.

2. PBR Commission Meeting for July 2013.

Chairman Worroll – Advised the July meeting is scheduled for July 3, 2013. In view of the Fourth of July Holiday with scheduled events for this week, would like to cancel the July meeting. However, should anything come up that needs to be addressed a special meeting will be called.

Commissioner Rowland makes a **Motion** to cancel the July 3, 2013 PBR Commission meeting.

Commissioner Nash seconds **Motion**.

Discussion. None

Motion unanimously carried.

VIII. Adjourn

Commissioner Rowland made a **Motion** to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.

Commissioner Nash seconds **Motion**.

Motion unanimously carried.

The Park, Beach and Recreation Commission will hold their next Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on **August 7, 2013** in **Conference Room “C”**.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Mossorofo
Secretary