

DRAFT MINUTES/APPROVED

To: Parks & Recreation Commission Members
From: Andrew DelVecchio, Assistant Director of Recreation
Re: Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting January 18, 2022

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held via Zoom on Tuesday, January 18th. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

I. Attendance:

Commissioners Present: Al Centone, Bob Kowalewski, Keith Macdowall, Frank Montagna, Chris Pagan, Joan Walsh

Commissioners Absent: Mary Lou Stamp

Staff Present: Michael J. Freda, First Selectman
Lynn Sadosky, Director of Public Works
Andrew DelVecchio, Assistant Director of Recreation
Jennifer Klein, Secretary
Jeremy Gustafson, Quinnipiac University Intern

II. Election of Officers

First Selectman Michael Freda was present to address three orders of business: entertaining nominations for Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary for the Parks and Recreation Commission. Bob Kowalewski made a motion to nominate Al Centone as Chairman, seconded by Frank Montagna. Frank Montagna made a motion to nominate Mary Lou Stamp as Vice Chairman, seconded by Joan Walsh. Bob Kowalewski made a motion to nominate Frank Montagna as Secretary, seconded by Al Centone. All were in favor of each nomination.

Al Centone thanked the Commission for the nomination for Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

III. Acceptance of Minutes:

Frank Montagna made a motion to accept the Minutes of September 20, 2021, seconded by Joan Walsh. All were in favor and the Minutes were accepted unanimously.

IV. Correspondence:

None

V. Director's Report

Lynn K. Sadosky, Director of Public Works

Field and Parks Scheduling (November 2021 to Present):

- Board of Education (BOE) Cross Country completed their Fall Season the week of November 22, 2021 at the Vanacore Track Complex;
- Board of Education (BOE) Volleyball completed their Fall Season the week of November 22, 2021 at the Fred Kelly Gymnasium;
- Board of Education (BOE) Varsity Swimming (Girls) completed their Fall season the week of November 22, 2021 at the Walter Gawrych Community Pool;
- Board of Education (BOE) Varsity Swimming (Boys) commenced with its Winter season on December 2, 2022 at the Walter Gawrych Community Pool;
- Board of Education (BOE) Football completed their Fall season on the Middle School Practice Field the week of November 22, 2021;
- Board of Education (BOE) Field Hockey completed their Fall season the week of November 22, 2021 at the Middle School Turf Fields;
- Board of Education (BOE) Junior Varsity/Varsity Boys and Girls Soccer completed their Fall season(s) the week of November 22, 2021 at the Middle School Turf Fields;
- North Haven Soccer Club concluded its Fall season at Grover Wyman, Ridge Road and Memorial Fields on November 20, 2021;
- A formal dedication was held for the Anthony Longley Athletic Facility at the Vanacore Complex by the Town, Board of Education, New Haven Building Trades and North Haven Youth Football on November 8, 2021 at 5:30 PM. The event was very well attended;
- On December 4, 2021, a Toy Drive (organizer Michael Onofrio) was held at the Gateway – Bassett Road Parking area to benefit children in need; and
- On December 5, 2021, the Annual Tree Lighting was held on the North Haven Town Green starting at 4 PM. with lighting at 5 PM.

Old Business

Green Acres Elementary School Kindergarten Playscape Project

A kick-off meeting was held on November 16, 2020, between the BOE Facilities and Grounds, Elementary School, Public Works and engineering design professionals - Weston and Sampson to solicit design needs and associated project costs for Kindergarten replacement playscapes.

On March 25, 2021, the Department of Public Works received a final Scope of Work and cost estimate for Professional Engineering services from Weston and Sampson. On April 1, 2021, a Purchase Requisition was issued to Weston and Sampson to commence design and layouts as appropriate.

Via a State DAS Bid, the Town and Board of Education issued a Purchase Requisition to John Hollerbach with Creative Recreation on July 13, 2021 to construct the new playscape with ADA

compliant accessibilities and components. Initial site work was completed in October 2021 by sub-contractors - Frankson Fence (to remove the existing and dilapidated perimeter fencing) and Glen Terrace Landscape (to prepare the site for construction).

Due to COVID-19 related supply chain issues, Creative Recreation personnel reported that the play equipment is not due to arrive until the last week of January 2022.

On November 29, 2021, Frankson Fence installed a new black chain link perimeter fence as specified by the design engineer. On December 3, 2021, additional site work was completed and included the installation of timbers around the play area perimeter by Creative Recreation personnel. Unfortunately, due to continued COVID supply chain delays, we await the playscape equipment delivery - now estimated for the week of January 31, 2022.

New Business

Design and Reconstruction of Vanacore Track and Complex

Several kick-off meetings were held from June 16, 2021 through September 14, 2021 between the Town, Board of Education and engineering design professionals – Weston and Sampson to solicit design needs and associated complex improvements needed for the Vanacore Track and overall Complex.

On September 13, 2021, the Department of Public Works received a final Scope of Work and cost estimate for Professional Engineering services from Weston and Sampson. On September 28, 2021, a Purchase Requisition was issued to Weston and Sampson so it may commence with land survey, soil boring tests, design and layouts as appropriate. As of January 13, 2022, the project is at 60% design and it is expected that this work will be completed by Weston and Sampson personnel on or before February 2022.

Submission of CT Communities Challenge Grant Applications

On January 11, 2022, the Department of Public Works submitted two Connecticut Communities Challenge grant applications to the State's Office of Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). These grant applications focus on improvements to the Town's Central Block (defined as Church Street, Linsley Street, Elm Street and Broadway) and improvements proposed for the Middle and High School track and field athletic facilities. A brief description follows for both applications.

Central Block Refurbishments

This \$2.8 M project will include refurbishments to parking areas, walkways, pool and library roofing, playscape replacements, existing infrastructure and curbing for the Town Hall, Town Hall Annex, Mildred A. Wakeley Recreation Center, Walter Gawrych Pool, Memorial Town Library and the Cultural Center. A new bandstand is also proposed for the Town Green. If awarded the grant, the Town is responsible for a 50% match – which will be provided through previously allocated funding under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). It is expected that grant awards will be made by the State's Office of the DECD sometime in March/April 2022.

Refurbishment of (Middle and High School) Athletic Facilities

This \$4.5M project will include refurbishments to the Middle and High School athletic facilities, including the Vanacore Track and Field, Bailey Road Baseball Field, Turf Fields (ADA compliant bleachers), Junior Varsity and Varsity baseball and softball fields, and fields at the DeMayo Complex. LED lighting and new green energy scoreboards are also included in the project. If awarded the grant, the Town is responsible for a 50% match – which may be provided through a future Capital Bonding Package (approved by the residents) or dollars allocated through the FY 23 Capital Budget. It is expected that grant awards will be made by the State’s Office of the DECD sometime in March/April 2022.

Community Bulletin Board and Upcoming Events (Calendar Year 2021 and 2022):

- November 1st to November 7th – Knights of Columbus Event;
- December 6th to December 12th – Italian American Youth Foundation;
- December 27th to January 2nd – Scared Heart Jesus School – Daycare;
- January 3rd to January 9th – Scared Heart Jesus School – Daycare;
- January 24th to January 30th – Sacred Heart Jesus School;
- February 21st to February 27th – North Haven High School – Mama Mia Production;
- February 28th to March 6th - North Haven High School – Mama Mia Production; and
- March 28th to May 1st – North Haven Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Andrew DelVecchio, Assistant Director of Recreation

The annual Tree Lighting Ceremony was held on Sunday, December 4, 2021. Hundreds of residents enjoyed the refreshments provided by the Father Donaher K of C and the VOX Church. The Recreation Department handed out goodie bags for the children. The North Haven High School Concert Choir performed holiday songs. There were no indoor activities this year due to Covid restrictions.

Andy thanked the Recreation Department staff, Primary Electric, the Police Department, the Fire Department, Field Operations, the CERT Team, Father Donaher K of C, Vox Church and The North Haven High School Concert Choir. The Tree lighting would not be possible without their contributions.

Winter recreation and pool programs are in session.

Applications for summer employment are being accepted at this time.

Planning continues for the Easter event which is scheduled for Saturday, April 9, 2022. The event will run from 10:30 – 12:30. It will be a socially distant drive - up event with participants being handed a bag of chocolate eggs. The Easter Bunny will be there to greet the public.

Planning continues for the Fishing Derby which is scheduled for Saturday, April 2, 2022. The event will adhere to Covid 19 protocols. Only individual prepackaged refreshments will be handed out. Trophies will be awarded for first fish caught, most fish caught and largest fish caught.

The adult softball league is scheduled to begin Wednesday, April 13th. Registration begins the first week of March.

Summer concerts will run 14 weeks beginning May 31st through August 30th. All 14 dates have been filled. Summer playground camp, day camp and sports camps will be offered. Playground and Day camp will run June 27th through August 5th. Both camps will be six weeks.

VI. Old Business

None

VII. New Business

Appoint one member to Open Space Advisory Committee: Following a brief discussion among the Commission, Al Centone was appointed as the representative for the Open Space Advisory Committee. All were in favor.

VIII. Public Participation:

None

IX. Adjournment:

Chairman Centone asked for a Motion to Adjourn. Motion made by Frank Montagna, seconded by Joan Walsh. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

The next meeting will take place on Monday, March 21, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.