

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN

Parks & Recreation Department
100 Riverview Center
Suite 140
Middletown, Connecticut 06457

Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes of June 6, 2013 **Held at the Recreation Department Office at 100 Riverview Center**

- Present: Commissioners Gerry Winzer, Tony Jaskot, Todd Berch, and Philip Pessina and Acting Director Debbie Stanley.
- Absent: Commissioners Sheila Jones and Rick Romano and Student Representative Dhruvi Patel.
- Call: Chairman Winzer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the main room of the Recreation office, 100 Riverview Center, Suite 140, Middletown.
- Public Hearing: Jennifer Maher spoke as the Chairwoman of Westfield Residents to ask that the pavilion at Smith Park be named in Arline Rich's memory. Originally they asked the Commission to consider putting a bench in the park dedicated to Arline but now would like to name the existing pavilion which would better do justice to Arline's involvement in the park. Carolanne D'Eon spoke in favor of naming the pavilion after Arline Rich and highlight Arline's participation in the building of the park and her love for Smith Park. Joe Fazzino, Chief Engineer of the Water and Sewer Department spoke about using the property on Miller Street, Roosevelt Park, for a staging area for the Matabessett project. They would need the sight for approximately one year beginning around September/October. They will leave it in the condition it is in or better after they use the park. Bob Santangelo spoke in favor of using the Harbor Park area for a car show. The City wants to encourage activities that bring people to the riverfront. Jesse Matterazzo spoke about the car show. He said that he understands that there is an ordinance that forbids parking on the grass. His organization would take responsibility for keeping the property in good shape. They have insurance which they will provide to the City. Any inclement weather and the car shows will be cancelled. There would be a limit to the number of cars that can participate based on the amount of space they have to properly park. Commissioner Pessina suggested they work with Sergeant Aresco of the Middletown Police Traffic Division. Mr. Matterazzo explained that they will make a donation the Connecticut Children's Medical Center. They would like to schedule one car show per month beginning next year. They will also look to work with the Lady Catherine Cruise company. Alissa Wurtzel spoke about using the Guida Land Trust property for parking for a family event they are having at their home near the Land Trust. There will be approximately 30 cars. She understands they can't park on the grass. Commissioner Pessina suggested she contact the Guida family to use their parking lot because the Land Trust has so few spaces.

Minutes: Chairman Winzer requested a motion to approve the minutes from April 4, 2013. There were no minutes from May as the meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum. Commissioner Berch made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Jaskot.

Vote: The Parks & Recreation Commission minutes of April 4, 2013 were unanimously approved. Commissioner Pessina abstained.

Correspondence: Acting Director Stanley reported Eagle Scout candidate Max Molski is unable to attend tonight's meeting but sent a letter which she read explaining the project he would like to do at the boathouse by creating a sign to identify the Middletown Boathouse and plantings around the boathouse. Acting Director Stanley also indicated that the MHS Crew Coach, Wendy Sheil supported this project.

Department Reports: None.

Old Business: **Signs on Veteran's Memorial Green.** Bob Santangelo spoke about the civic organizations being upset that their signs were not replaced when the new sign was installed. Commissioner Berch indicated that the prior minutes of this Commission show that the item was tabled for future discussion. Chairman Winzer spoke about the Veterans being upset that any sign other than the one that is there being installed. Commissioner Berch suggested we table this for further discussion.

Veteran's Memorial Trees – Commissioner Pessina reported that the committee on this issue met the night before. The architect listened to the committees concerns and ideas. The committee will meet two or three more times and then there will be a public meeting. Commissioner Berch discussed some of the possible options for use of this park.

New Business: **Eagle Scout Proposal** – Chairman Winzer said that someone from the city should be involved with the choices of plantings that would be appropriate for the site.

Vote: Commissioner Pessina made a motion to approve the project; Commissioner Berch seconded the motion. All in favor. The request is approved.

Parking at Guida's Land Trust - Commissioner Pessina suggested that Acting Director Stanley contact the parties to inform them of the options and the fact that they will only be allowed to park in the designated parking spaces at the Land Trust and it might be beneficial for them to contact the Guida family about their parking lot.

Vote: Commissioner Pessina made a motion to approve the request; Commissioner Jaskot seconded the motion. All in favor. The request is approved.

Naming of the Pavilion at Smith Park in memory of Arline Rich – Commissioner Berch spoke in favor of this proposal. Chairman Winzer tells the members present from Westfield Residents that they must pay for the sign and have it approved by the Commission before it is ordered. He explained that the Commission doesn't meet until September but they should be able to approve the design during the summer. The

members reported that the installation and dedication in the Fall would be better for them so they will wait for approval of the design then. Chairman Winzer explained the possibility of the department mergers and that they have the approval tonight to move forward, even if the department make-up changes. Commissioner Berch explained that he is the Chairman of the Public Works Commission and if there was a change it would be to that commission and they have his support.

Vote: Commissioner Berch made a motion to approve the project; Commissioner Pessina seconded the motion. All in favor. The request is approved.

Water and Sewer Department's use of Miller Street Park - no discussion

Vote: Commissioner Berch made a motion to approve the project; Commissioner Pessina seconded the motion. All in favor. The request is approved.

Car Show at Harbor Park – Chairman Winzer supported this project. His only concern was the parking on the grass. Commissioner Pessina suggested they work with the Police Department to put up barricades and signs. A suggestion to refer this issue to the Public Safety Committee was made. The problem of parking on the South Green and the kids playing on park statues at other events was discussed. It was suggested that Deb Stanley contact Cathy Duncan about these concerns for future programs.

Vote: Commissioner Berch made a motion to approve the project; Commissioner Pessina seconded the motion. All in favor. The request is approved.

Commission Meetings in July and August – It was decided that these meeting would be cancelled due to vacations and the busy camp season. The Commission could call an emergency meeting if necessary.

Vote: Commissioner Pessina made a motion to approve the project; Commissioner Berch seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion is approved.

Miscellaneous: Chairman Winzer asked about the Sports Grant applications. Acting Director Stanley explained that we have already funded the advertising, the deadline is August 1st for submitting applications and the Commission will award the money in the September meeting. Chairman Winzer said that any late applications should be returned to the applicant without consideration. He also indicated that he and Deb Stanley would meet to go over the applications and will make a recommendation to the Commission at the September meeting.

Commissioner Berch would like to add the increase of fees to the September agenda for consideration.

Motion Motion to Adjourn by Commissioner Berch, seconded by Commissioner Jaskot, all in favor, passes unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Christine Bourne
cc: Mayor Daniel Drew