

## **CITY OF MIDDLETOWN**

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

### **Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes of September 19, 2013** **Held at the Recreation Department Office at 100 Riverview Center**

Present: Commissioners Gerry Winzer, Tony Jaskot, Todd Berch, Sheila Jones, and Philip Pessina. Acting Director Debbie Stanley. Joe Samolis/ Chief of Staff was also in attendance

Absent: Commissioner Rick Romano was absent.

Call: Chairman Winzer called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. in the main room of the Recreation office, 100 Riverview Center, Suite 140, Middletown.

Public Hearing: Steve Ladd from Ahern Whalen spoke on behalf of Middletown Little league and Ahern Whalen. He apologized for the Little League Sports Grant application being so late. Both programs are looking for the same funding as last year. Steve feels that both programs are in need of monetary aid. Frank Marchese spoke on behalf of Middletown Youth Soccer. All the fields are heavily used at this time of the year. Middletown Youth Soccer is making use of any green space available for soccer. Ron Brown Boys Prof Gallitto basketball is looking for funding for referees. Harold Panciera is looking for the same funding as last year for Girls Prof Gallitto basketball. Heather Iaderosa spoke on behalf of the Lacrosse program. Enrollment has increased from 80 participants to 130. She is looking for the same amount of funding as last year. The lacrosse program would like to sponsor any child who cannot afford the lacrosse equipment and would like to play. To date they have not had to turn anyone away.

Jesse Matterazzo spoke pertaining to the Route 66 Car Show. He would like to have permission to hold the event at Harbor Park this year.

Joe Samolis explained the Department merger intentions.

Alexis Volpe is requesting permission to install a memorial at Smith Park in honor of the daisy scouts that were Sandy Hook Victims. This project is part of her Girl Scout Silver Award.

Minutes: Commissioner Berch motioned to approve the minutes from June 6, 2013. There were no minutes from July and August as the meetings were cancelled. Commissioner Jaskot seconded. Minutes were approved.

Correspondence: none

Old Business:

- City of Middletown Code of Ordinances Section 214-2 Notice Signs – Motion was made by Commissioner Pessina to move the sign at the Veterans Memorial Green to the corner of Vine and Washington. There is going to be a change to the sign – it will list all the civic orders that were on the previous sign. Other signs will not be allowed at this time other than Park and Recreation signs which will be placed next to the permanent sign. Commissioner Jones moved the motion, and it was seconded by Commissioner Berch. Chairman Winzer voted the sole nay. Motion passed 4 to 1.
- Renovation of Palmer Field Concession Stand – Commissioner Pessina motioned to remove this item from future agendas, Commissioner Berch seconded it. All were in favor.

New Business:

- **Youth Sports Grant Applications** - Commissioner Jones would like any child who applies for a program (considering that the program is grant funded) to be allowed in to that particular program regardless of whether or not they met the application deadline. Commissioner Berch believes that all groups applying for City grant funds should have to abide by a standard City policy. Chairman Winzer suggested that we require accounting and tax returns from the non-profits. There was some discussion of matching grants. Commissioner Berch made a motion to deny the Little League application and Commissioner Jones seconded it. Commissioner Jaskot voted nay and the motion passed 4 to 1. Commissioner Jones wants to hold some grant money back in a contingency fund for those unforeseen needs. Commissioner Berch motioned to hold \$4,000 of the \$40,000 by reducing each applicant's pre-determined amount by 10 percent. This was seconded by Commissioner Pessina. The distribution of the Sports Grant funds will be Ahern Whalen \$5,850; Soccer \$9,000; Lacrosse \$3,870; Football \$9,000; Girls Basketball \$2,880; Boys Basketball \$4,950; Salvation Army \$450; Little League \$00 (due to late application). All in favor, motion passed. Little League may be eligible for this money if no other group needs it this year.
- **Camp Fees** – Commissioner Berch motioned to increase all summer camp fees by 10%. Commissioner Pessina seconded the motion. Motion passed
- **Route 66 Car Show** - discussion on this will be postponed until the Parks and Public Works merger. Louis Drenzo was advised that he should have no trouble with hosting his event.
- **Changing color of Columbus Point Gazebo** - The Commission has no issue with the Gazebo changing from orange to gray to be consistent with the tunnel. Commissioner Pessina motioned to ok the color change, Commissioner Berch seconded. All in favor, motion passed.
- **Alexis Volpe Girl Scout Silver Award Memorial** – Commission was in favor of the daisy memorial at Smith Park

Miscellaneous:

Motion Chairman Winzer motioned to adjourn, the motion was moved by Commissioner Pessina, all voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Jody Krupa  
cc: Mayor Daniel Drew