

Town of East Haven, CT
Recreation & Athletic Complex Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2019
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Members Present:

Chairwoman Temple Smith
Vice-Chair William Porto
Commissioner Linda Simoni

Staff Present:

Lou Pane-Director (7:35)
Joe Deko-TC
Joe Carfora-TC

Public Present:

John Wobensmith
Mary Viegas

Chairwoman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. Roll was called, and a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION made to approve the minutes of the June 10th meeting was made by Vice-Chair Porto and seconded by Commissioner Simoni. All were in favor; none were opposed, and none abstained. **MOTION CARRIED**

Correspondence Received

Chairwoman Smith stated that the commission needs to talk to Director Pane regarding permits and residents coming to the board for requests to use Town property that the commission has jurisdiction over.

A request was received from Regina Criscuolo from Petonito's Bakery to be able to sell coffee, gelato, pastries cupcakes and cookies at the Sunday Concerts on the Green. Unfortunately, anyone who wishes to sell food on the Green needs a permit and after finding out the procedure, she decided to not pursue getting one.

Correspondence Sent

Notifications were sent to the residents who requested use of Town Property as follows:

Lee Rackliff for a Pet Adoption event. There are safety and insurance concerns with having them on the Green so he was told to ask Animal Control Officer Owen Little if he could have the event at the dog pound or the other places he mentioned he might be able to have it. Owen wasn't aware of this event prior to the meeting.

Purvi Patel was told that they could have the Yoga event and was told of the regulations regarding no food, no open flames, and they must collect their own garbage.

Diego Dussan requested use of the field behind the Middle School for a men's soccer league. Unfortunately, the field is in use by Youth Football on the dates and times that he requested, so they need to use Moulthrop.

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Public Session

Town Councilman Joe Deko (District 2), spoke about the issues at the beach regarding parking, the bathrooms are filthy and there needs to be more garbage cans to hold the excessive amount of garbage at the beach as the cans that are there now are overflowing. He said they need about another dozen to be placed by the splashpad and the bocce courts. He did say the beach looks great but asked if the second supervisor position had been filled or not. He sees people bathing with soap at the splash pad and wanted to know if it could be cordoned off. He said that because there was no State money received for the splash pad that there could be regulations put in place. There is a Cosey Beach Resident Group that holds meetings regarding the area and what their concerns are. He feels that the splash pad could have an aesthetically pleasing fence put up around it and make it for resident only. There also needs to be more staff as there is only one person in charge. He requested that the parking attendants' hours be extended until 5pm as most of the people who come from other towns know when the attendants leave and come in and set up tents and are cooking on the beach or at the pavilion. Councilman Deko stated that the Public Works Department does do a good job and that the Police Department is more present there on the weekends on their bikes. He also wanted to know that why does the PW department care for the beach and not the Park and Rec staff?

Resident John Wobensmith then spoke about the beach as well. He lives on Cosey Beach Avenue and said that last week he couldn't sit on his deck because of smoke from grills especially from the pavilion. And he said the Police Department is sitting right there! Out of towners know when employees leave and it's too much. He also asked about the east end of the beach where the chain is with bushes (thorns) along the fence line which skunks seem to be living in. Is there anything that can be done as the skunks get into trash cans and come into condo complex. Can there be traps set?

Mary Viegas then spoke. She owns property on Cosey Beach Avenue as well. There is a lot of nighttime activity going on at the beach, plus the mountains of trash that is left behind. She has sent emails to Councilman Joe Deko, Mayor Maturo and Atty. Joe Zullo, with no response except for Councilman Deko. She then showed pictures of the areas that were a mess to the commission. She also spoke about the lifeguards. There was only 1 guard on duty from 10-12 and then two more came in. She said it took about 10 minutes for them to get up to their seat and were only there for an hour. Then she stated that most of the time the guards were looking more at their phones than the water line.

There was discussion regarding rules on flotation devices, fire department training which is too close to the swim area for the beach as well as kayaks which are also too close. We don't want any accidents with people swimming because of that.

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Chairwoman Smith then stated to Director Lou Pane that they need 12 more trash cans at the beach, and he stated that he has been asking for them since Memorial Day from Public Works.

Director's Report

Director Pane asked if the commission could send a get-well card to a long time P&R employee Steve Cacace. He as at Yale and was in a bad motorcycle accident. Clerk Linda LaLuna will send as requested.

The pool is open with about 20-25 people at the am swim. There is always less in the summer as more go to the beach instead.

Summer camp has just started with 127 kids with 50 counselors. There is a soccer clinic, a basketball camp (Hoop Dreams) and there are 125 kids in the summer basketball league held at the rink.

The rink is freshly painted, and the stands will be done last.

New Business

None

Old Business

None

The next meeting of the commission will be held September 9th.

There being no other business to come before the commission, a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 was made by Chairwoman Smith and seconded by Commissioner Simoni. All were in favor; none were opposed, and none abstained. **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda S. LaLuna

Linda S. LaLuna
Clerk