

Middlefield Park and Recreation Commission
161 Strickland Rd, Middlefield, Ct (Peckham Park Pavilion)
Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting Thursday, July 2nd, 2020

Meeting Called To order by Brian McDermott at 6:00pm

Members Present:

Brain McDermott (Temporary Chair), Cindy Sanchez (Regular Member), Hannah Malcolm (Park and Recreation Director/Non-Voting member), Frank Wolak (Regular member/Chair), Edward Bailey (First Selectman)

Quorum was met

Public Comments

None

Approval of Agenda

Motion to Approve Meeting Agenda

By Cindy Sanchez. Seconded by Frank Wolak

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carried

Approval of Minutes from previous meeting

Motion to approve minutes from May and June Meeting.

Motion Made by Brain McDermott. Seconded by Cindy Sanchez

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Carried

Finance Report

Hannah Reported that the new fiscal year began so the accounts are at their funded amounts

Budgeted items:

Peckham (\$34,650), Beseck (\$16,800), Capital (\$55,330).

Activity Fund \$24,200

See attached for detail

Ed Bailey explained that there has been an increase of activity at the beach as a result of people staying home and using the town facility more. There has also been a lot of people from out of town attempting to use the beach. In recent discussions Park and Rec Chairman, Chris Hurlburt, and Ed discussed how to manage this effectively. They concluded that a pass checker would be needed from the time that the gate opens to when the gate closes (11am-8pm). This is a cost that we weren't intending so the board

of finance will have to grant the department more funds for this. The town will hope to have this cost partially covered by FEMA.

Old business

Events

Drive in Movie- A date for the movie will be on Friday 8/14 at Peckham. There are two areas where it can be displayed, and the final decision will be made by the company hosting the event. The commission discussed logistics for food trucks and vendors. Some towns have been doing menus brought to the car with volunteers delivering the items to the cars. Based on current trends, the first selectman believes that we can have traditional food trucks with socially distanced lines. More of the logistics and clearance will need to be determined by the Southington/Plainville Health District. Ed also produced the idea to use light towers to help with leaving the facility. Hannah will work on this over the next few weeks.

Trivia night- An idea for trivia night was discussed by the commission. The thought was to have Chris Hurlburt host a trivia night. Chris was absent so this idea was tabled for the future.

Facility Captains Checkup/Park Updates

Peckham- Since the meeting was at Peckham Hannah was able to show a variety of updates that have been going on at Peckham. A Portopotty stall was put in by Cahil with the intention to avoid having the toilets tipped over, and to make the park look nicer. Eagle Scout, Paul Biesler, also installed a "Free Little Library" by the playground for our guests to use. Hannah agreed to be the steward for the library. Discussion and update for the basketball court occurred. Hannah reported that they are waiting to hear back from the town engineer about the courts. Hannah explained that the courts will be asphalt and will have lines for basketball and pickleball. There will not be a net for pickle ball. If people want to play pickleball they will bring their own portable net.

Ed Bailey mentioned that the town added an additional \$25,000 to the tennis courts at Memorial and that the courts will only be accessible to Middlefield and Durham Residents. This is a recreational facility that the summer camp and residents will be able to use. The court that will be put in is plastic tiles over the repaired asphalt. This product is more affordable.

Lake Beseck- Several concerns were brought up by Hannah in relation to the beach. The intention of discussing this with the park and rec commission was to

fill them in on some concerns and to get their input on protocols on how to handle the issues.

Capacity: As of 7/2 we have sold over 200 passes. The park has space for 30 cars. It was decided that if the parking lot is full, the gate will close and won't allow parking in the parking lot. People can still walk onto the beach. There is also the option to park on the roadway near the beach.

Social Distancing: Groups must remain 15 feet apart. This distance is based on state guidelines which allows for a 6ft separation from a 3ft walking aisle. People who are a part of the same group do not have to social distance but a 6-foot distance is recommended.

Air BNB- there are currently 5 houses that use the facility to rent to Air BNB. It was determined that the beach will no longer accept people with passes from Air BNB renters for this summer. The Governor has put out a restriction for 16 states and is enforcing mandatory quarantining. The commission will discuss the prolonged future of AIR BNB renters and the cost of that pass during the off season. Long term renters will still be able to use a beach pass.

Beach Hours and Parking- The beach hours will remain from sunup to sun down. The parking will be open from 11am-8pm. The gate will be monitored by a pass checker when it is open. People can park outside if the gate is not open.

Guest Policy- Guests will still be accepted but it must be limited to 4 people. Pass holder must be present with their guest.

Pavilion Renters- There will be no rentals of the pavilion for private parties. There may be exceptions for community organized functions.

Parking lot use- Restricted to only people at the beach. Neighbors having parties will not be able to have their guests park at the facility

Fireworks- No fireworks.

Park Rules Update

King Property/Dog Park/ Parking Lot -There has been an increase of negative activity in this area. Specifically, dirt bikes have been tearing up the trails, there are reports of bikes nearly hitting people enjoying the trails. Other issues include people using the facility to picnic and grill, which is not allowed. It was discussed

to come up with some rules to post in this area so that our resident troopers can enforce the law. A motion to put up a sign at the dog park is as follows.

Motion to approve the Middlefield Park and Recreation Commission Rules for use of Middlefield Dog Park parking lot and King Property access and use as of July 2nd, 2020. The rules include, Dog Park and King Property Hiking only Parking, No picnicking nor swimming access to Lake Beseck/King Property, No Fires or grills without previous written approval from Middlefield, No Motorized Dirt Bikes, ATVs, or other vehicles without previous written approval allowed in or on the dog park or king property, no alcohol, smoking, vaping, or drug use.

***Motion Made by Brain McDermott. Seconded by Cindy Sanchez
Vote: Unanimous
Motion Carried***

There was also a concern from Beseck neighborhood residents to permanently dismantle the dog park because they believe that this is a cause of an increase in crime in that neighborhood. Hannah mentioned that this is the first time that she is hearing gripes about the facility. The commission felt that there is an increase of activity due to people being stir crazy over the COVID pandemic. The commission was opposed to the idea of dismantling the facility and felt that they will make rules to help improve the issue. We will also post the appropriate numbers to report

Cindy Sanchez brought up a concern from Resident Lenny Pinz who would like to see a voluntary group of people monitor the area and patrol violators with their own bikes. The commission was against this because it could lead to big issues and liability, plus even if it went well and someone didn't show up, we might receive hate. Hannah suggested that the resident bring it up to the crime watch group or association.

Program Update

Commission was against a movie night series.

Wish List

Request for new tables at the beach. Hannah explained that tables were recently bought to replace the broken ones at the beach. If they are fixable, the old tables will be moved to the skate pond.

New Business

School Based clubs- Based on current guidelines, it is likely that we won't be able to host school based clubs in the fall.

Publish about the facilities- The commission would like to see a post about our facilities being open. We will not be sanitizing. We will provide hand sanitizer and recommend masks for playscape.

Permits

The commission agreed to block the weekdays for commissions, boards and other civic groups. The rental fee will be waived for this activity. Hannah will post the usage every week.

Additional Discussion about not allowing grilling without written approval.

Looking Ahead

No discussion

Final Thoughts

Brain Asked about the signage for the dog park. It will be posted at the dog park entrance with the bucket signs and write out the ruling. Brain also requested a town meeting for these rules for next month. Hannah did mention that there is an infraction number 7-14b for a no more than \$90 that the police can enforce.

Adjourn

No Motion to adjourn. Meeting was dismissed by Brian McDermott at 7:40pm.

Line Items/Budgeted Accounts

How it works: These are items that the town funds, but we have control over. This is money that the BOF asked us to budget for. This money is used to help maintain and improve the parks. The capital budget is an amount that does not get touched unless a big item is due to be improved such as the playscape.

Peckham Park:~ \$9,400 (Transactions pending)

To be Spent (~\$7,500) : \$1,000 (mowing) + \$1000 Recycling barrels + (\$900) Exhaust at pavilion serviced + \$800 (New ceiling tiles for pavilion kitchen and bathrooms) + \$500 (Eversource) + \$600 (Gravel patio for new container) + \$1,000 (misc. spending...flowers...paint...dog bags), \$500 (Picnic Tables/benches), \$500 Mulch, \$700 Employee

Lake Beseck: \$2,193

To be Spent (\$1,600): \$300 (toilets), \$1000 (Employee), \$300 (Misc.)

Capital: \$33,700.00

Park and Rec Activity Fund:

How it works: Hannah Collects money from instructor run programs, donations, pavilion fees, and other miscellaneous income. The only money going out (expenses) is money that we must pay back the instructors for running the camp. Park and Rec will typically collect \$5-\$10 per person for each club that runs through us. Other expenses that are removed from this fund is money that we used for events, donations, and items that the commission has found necessary to buy.

Funds that we have accumulated for our use: \$22,300

*Respectfully submitted by Hannah Malcolm
7/7/2020*