

**MINUTES**

**Cromwell Recreation Commission  
Regular Meeting**

**May 5, 2016**

RECEIVED FOR FILING  
5-9 2016 at 12:16 P.M.  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
CROMWELL, CONN.

*L. L. L. L. L.*  
TOWN CLERK

**Present:** Commissioners Brenda Zeilor, William Konopka, Phillip Gregory, John Schmaltz, Paul Cordone, Richard Nobile, Recreation Supervisor Shelby Jones and Recreation Director Susan Schein.

**Absent:** Mark Carroll, Al Waters/Town Council Liaison, and Samantha Slade/Town Council Liaison,

Meeting called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Chairman Brenda Zeilor

**Approve/Amend Agenda:** Motion was made by Mr. Gregory to amend the agenda to add under New Business, Item 9a-Propose naming of field at Watrous Park to honor Frank Golden. Motion seconded by Mr. Konopka. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Regular Meeting:** Motion made by Mr. Schmaltz to approve the minutes of the Recreation Commission's February 4, 2016 Regular Meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Gregory. Mr. Nobile abstained. Motion passed.

**Citizens Comments:**

None

**Councilmen's Comments:**

None

**Correspondence:**

None

**Program Report**

Director Schein informed the Commission that several programs were added to the spring session. All programs are running well in spite of the recent weather.

Director Schein will be writing a letter and sending it to the Board of Education giving a huge thank you to the Cromwell High School's Boys Lacrosse Team for their assistance with the Recreation's Lacrosse program. The Team's enthusiasm and interaction with participants is

**Program Report (continued):**

amazing. Several compliments have been received from parents and the kids love working with the team members.

All other programs are running smoothly.

Director Schein passed out copies of the Summer Brochures. They are presently at the printer and are expected back tomorrow or on Monday. The Recreation Department will be receiving assistants from High School Students in putting the brochures together for distribution at the various schools. It is anticipated that brochures will be collated and to the schools by 3:00 P.M. next Thursday.

Commission members were advised that several new programs were added for the summer. New programs include: Casa Blanca Modeling/Fashion Program, Live Action Incredi-Flicks Movie Making, Engineering Imaginations-Lego/Science Program, etc.

A big addition to the Summer Programs offerings is a Playground Program for Ages 3-4 & 5-year olds. The program will be a half day session program to be run by a certified teacher over at the Edna C. Stevens School.

Interviews for summer positions were held last week. Applications will be reviewed and letters will go out by the end of next week.

The schedule for the Summer Concert Series is set with two new bands scheduled to perform.

Mr. Nobile inquired as to whether Director Schein had been approached regarding holding concerts on the river. To date she has not been contacted.

**Committee Report:**

None

**New Business:**

Propose naming of field at Watrous Park to honor Frank Golden: Director Schein informed members that Mr. Golden has just passed away. Mr. Golden had been a member of the Commission prior to Director Schein and a driving force in the development of Watrous Park. Both Mr. Golden and his wife, who worked for the town in the Finance Department assisted in obtaining grants and paperwork during the development process. He was extremely active in recreational programs, St John Church, the Knights of Columbus (where he headed up the Tootsie Roll Fund Raising), etc. Every year he would oversee and secure donations for the

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**New Business (continued):**

Propose naming of field at Watrous Park to honor Frank Golden (continued)

:  
Recreation Department Participants with Special Needs programs. He was involved in Little League, Football, Volunteered and helped seniors with taxes/paperwork, etc.

Brief discussion held at which time a motion was made by Mr. Nobile to authorize Director Schein to move forward with the proposed dedication of a field or portion of Watrous Park in honor of Frank Golden. Motion seconded by Mt. Schmaltz. Motion passed unanimously.

Director Schein will research the naming of fields and other portions of Watrous Park to insure one is available and will contact the Town Manager advising him of the Commission's intentions.

**Old Business:**

Splashpad: Director Schein advised Commission Members that the splashpad has been completed at the beginning of the week. The area has been hydroseeded and the guardrail-type fencing ordered.

In lieu of fencing, benches and tables will be surrounding the splashpad as well as along the parking lot. This will avoid cars from driving up to the splashpad.

The review of Rules & Regulations were done earlier this week and a meeting will be set to discuss and finalize them next week.

The splashpad looks good with just a minor leak detected and addressed.

The Town is looking to open the splashpad mid-June/end of the school year weather pending. Brief discussion held. The benches to be installed will be similar to those presently at Watrous Park. Tables will have a bench on 3-sides and the fourth side will accommodate wheelchairs.

The Commission inquired as to its access. Director Schein advised that there is a ramp already on one side and will remind appropriate parties that a second ramp is needed.

Budget 2016-17: The Recreation Budget passed through the Town Council and Board of Finance without lines items being cut. The Town Budget has passed 3-1 in favor.

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**Old Business (continued):**

Park Improvements: Mr. Schmaltz informed Commission Members that he spoke with and architect that was recommended to him by Astro Turf. At that point he sent around the packet he received regarding artificial turf fields. At this time no prices were given. Based on recent fields done in the area Mr. Schmaltz state a field may cost between 1.2 – 1.5 million.

The first step in the process of installing an artificial turf would to have a Feasibility Study done. The approximate cost for the study is approximately \$5,000 - \$10,000.

Discussion held regarding fields and uses. Due to the location of the bleachers and press box at Pierson Park a full size baseball field is not possible. However, small fields for younger players are possible along with using it for lacrosse, soccer, etc. Moving the younger players off the poorer fields and utilizing the artificial turf field in the spring months would help in obtaining public support for its funding.

Additional discussion held regarding tying in of drainage, funding, field use and Feasibility Study.

Director Schein will meet with the Town Manager to discuss the proper steps to take to fund a Feasibility Study.

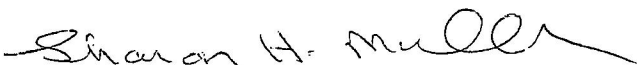
**Commissioners Comments:**

Discussion held regarding the concern of Commission Members of unauthorized field use. It has come to the attention of the Director and Commission that non-authorized groups are using fields on a regular basis without obtaining the required permits. These groups are not considerate of groups that have obtained the proper authorization/permit and refuse to leave when asked even when posted rules and regulations are brought to their attention. At this time there is no set recourse. The Commission would like to look into having one initiated.

**Adjournment:**

Mr. Nobile made the motion to adjourn the regular meeting of the Recreation Commission. Motion seconded by Mr. Gregory. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon H. Muller  
Clerk