

West Haven Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes of Meeting
February 4, 2019
City Hall Meeting Room 3rd Fl

Meeting called to order by Comm. Coyle at 7:02pm.

Present: Comm. Coyle, Comm. Valaitis, Comm. Donovan, Park Rec. Director Bill Slater, Public Works Comm. Tom McCarthy, West Haven City Treasurer Mike Last, Mayor Rossi, Pat Reed- WHY Lacrosse
John Vinci- WHY Soccer
Mike Last- WH Pop Warner
Chris Jones- WH Little League
Frank Dini- WH Shore Haven
Jane Whelan- 100 Aimes Dr West Haven

Absent: Comm. Tompkins, Comm. Beirne

A motion made to amend the agenda to public session by Dave Coyle. The motion was seconded by Comm. Donovan. The motion was carried out by unanimous vote.

Public Session:

Comm. Coyle expressed his welcome to the West Haven Youth League Presidents and the Mayor and thanks. Comm. Coyle had asked the presidents to come forth and address the commission and Tom McCarthy with any issues and concerns that they have with field preparations for the upcoming spring season. Comm. Coyle asked each league to go in order of the table.

Shore Haven- Frank Dini addressed the commission with a few things that they would like to see repaired in time for the upcoming Baseball/Softball season. He also stated how the league really didn't have any issues last year with field prep for games and thanked PW Comm. McCarthy for that. Major concerns for the Shore Haven fields at Seth G Haley School are as follows:

- A. Fences need repair
- B. Dugouts need painting
- C. Fields 1 and 2 need new clay and lips taken out
- D. Field 3 needs outfield work
- E. The bathroom needs some dispensers.

Lacrosse- Pat Reed explained that his league doesn't have an official city field to play, practice and call the Youth Lacrosse field like other leagues have. Mr. Reed stated that the league practices at Bailey Middle School but pays to play at West Haven High School. He has requested if the Bailey could be cut and lined by the city. The city doesn't oversee this field which was explained by Mr. Slater, Park and Rec. Director and this would have to be brought to the attention of the Board of Education. PW Comm. McCarthy stated that he will speak to Chris Everone who oversees Bailey's facility and see if they can come to agreement where the city

would paint the field if the BOE would cut the field. PW Comm. McCarthy told Mr. Reed that someone will get back to him with some sort of answer.

Little League-Chris Jones has previously met with PW. Comm. McCarthy and expressed his concerns about the Morse Park Little League fields. Pretty much the same issues as Shore Haven: Lips on the fields, old clay taken out and new clay replaced which would raise the fields a bit. PW. Comm. McCarthy is in the process of finding out if the bleachers at the fields are owned by the city or Little League. Comm. McCarthy expressed how some of them are unsafe and should be removed for safety reasons. Once an owner of the bleachers is identified this issue will be addressed. Mr. Jones expressed that the league does have a "Volunteer Day" for the parents and players to come and help clean up the park. PW Comm. McCarthy explained how there is a deal with the union 681 that the City will be willing to have 1 Public Works personnel per every 5 volunteer to do what the city would be expected to do on a cleanup.

WH Youth Soccer- John Vinci explained that the league pays for the maintenance of Duffy Field and is willing to pay for maintenance for Peterson Fields. Mr. Vinci explained that the turf goals need to come out because they are no longer considered a league playing field. He also expressed on how badly Founders field needs a lot of work. The field hasn't been in the greatest shape in a few years due to lack of maintenance being done to it. Mr. Vinci is looking to get Founders Field back in use for the Youth Soccer program.

WH Pop Warner- Mike Last states that the Veterans field has been completed. The field is under a 2 year warranty. Mr. Last states that Notre Dame and West Haven Seahawks will be splitting the cost for the company to come to the field and keep proper maintenance for the first year.

Jane Whelan- Ms. Whelan addressed the commission, Mayor Rossi, and PW Comm. McCarthy about Contact Dr. Her concerns as to what is going to be done with the property. PW Comm. McCarthy stated that the park has been deemed a new park in West Haven that replaced Bayview Park which was sold to the Havens. There will be some improvements made to the park. Ms. Whelan was pleased with this response and looks forward to seeing the improvements.

PW Comm. McCarthy thanked the league presidents for bringing these issues to not only him but to the Park Rec. commission as well. The Park and Rec. and Public Works departments will work together to hopefully attend to these issues in an orderly fashion for the upcoming spring season sports.

A motion was made at 7:55pm to amend the agenda back to original schedule was set by Comm. Dave Coyle. The motion was seconded by Comm. Donovan. The motion was carried out by unanimous vote.

New Business:

A. Youth Leagues- Public Session

B. Bill Slater- Kerri Ruocco announced at the end of the public session that Mr. William Slater, Director of Parks and Recreation will retire after serving in the department as the director for twenty-five years. Mrs. Ruocco states the department is sad to see him go. Mr. Slater's last day is March 1, 2019. Comm. Coyle congratulated Mr. Slater on behalf of the commission on his retirement and the commission wishes Mr. Slater all the best.

C. Other- Comm. Donovan expressed his feelings about Third Ave Park and the conditions it is in. He is aware that the money that was promised for this park that was given from the Havens in replace of Bayview Park was put into the general fund. Comm. Donovan has requested that PW. Comm. McCarthy look into getting money for this park and upgrade some items in the park. Comm. McCarthy will look into this request and get back to the commission.

Comm. Donovan also expressed concern as to how administrators look at this commission as just an advisory commission and wants to know what authority this commission really has. Mr. Last states that the authority this commission has is stated in the City Charter and should be looked at. Mr. Last also suggested that city Attorney Lee Tiernan is contacted with such question and asked to attend the next commission meeting in March with any information he can provide for this commission.

PW Comm. McCarthy stated that he is looking into cleaning up the rock on Parcel M (next to the Savin Rock Conference Center). His plans are to clean up the trees and bushes and all the graffiti it has obtained in the past years. The commission is very pleased with this and can't wait to see the outcome once this project is completed.

Old Business:

A. Budget- Mr. Slater explained how the budget proposal will be turned in next week. Mr. Slater states that the Mayor did not ask for any cuts from the department which is good. There are no other updates on budget until it is presented to the council.

B. Other- None

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Valaitis, seconded by Commissioner Donovan and carried by unanimous vote at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Kerri Ruocco

Please note these minutes are subject to approval.