

West Haven Parks and Recreation Commission

Agenda

April 4, 2022

Park-Rec Office 7:00pm

Call Meeting to Order: Motion to call meeting to order by Comm. Coyle at 7:00pm

Present: Comm. Coyle, Comm. Valaitis, Comm. Freel, Parks and Recreation Director Mark Paine, Shore Haven-Frank Dini, Joe Dini, Little League- Amin Rubirosa, Youth Lacrosse- Bob McGrath, Youth Soccer- John Vinci

Absent- Comm. Beirne, Comm. Tompkins

Motion to amend the agenda to public hearing set by Comm. Coyle at 7:01pm.
Motion seconded by Comm. Freel. Motion carried out by unanimous vote.

Shore Haven- Mr. Frank Dini prepared a list of items that Park Maintenance needs to address. Mr. Dini has requested that the water meter gets turned on so they can go about a cleanup and start of practices which depending on the weather will start this week. Mr. Dini shared a list of things that need to be attended to for the start of their opening day. Their opening day which is now called Dollar Day is set for June 4, 2022. The league is starting games on April 25, 2022. Comm. Coyle thanked Mr. Frank Dini and Mr. Joe Dini for attending the meeting and sharing their concerns for field preparations.

Little League- Amin Rubirosa addressed the commission with his concerns for the preparation of the Little League fields and the start of their season. Mr. Rubirosa expressed that Public Works Comm. Tom McCarthy has already met with the league Vice President Steve Decrescenzo and walked the fields. Field 1 seems to be used as a neighborhood dog park. The league is looking to use the field for practices and games this season. The field is a mess and really needs to be attended too. Field 5 has bleachers on the field. It has been expressed to Mr. Paine, Park Rec Director, that the bleachers are owned by Little League and it is their responsibility to remove them from the field. Mr. Rubirosa has requested to have the water meter be placed prior to the Health Department inspection next

week. Fields 2 and 3 need to have the fences attended to. Mr. Rubirosa expresses that on field 6, there is a homeless person living on the field or in the dugout.

Youth Lacrosse- Bob McGrath expresses concerns that with the new court that was built on the back side of the field at Bailey Middle School, that it has impacted the use for practices and games for the league. The league was using West Haven High School field for games but that has become pricey for the league. A suggestion was made to allow use of Veteran's Field for a lesser cost to the league. Mr. McGrath is going to speak with the league president Pat Reed. Mrs. Kerri Ruocco spoke with Mr. McCarthy and agreed to let the league use Veteran's Field and requested to be responsible for just the OT cost. Mr. McGrath will again speak with Mr. Reed and get back to Mrs. Ruocco.

Youth Soccer-Mr. John Vinci has requested that all fields are lined for the start of the soccer season. Mr. Vinci understands that with the impending weather this week that the start date may have to be pushed back. Mr. Vinci has requested that 5-6 handicap signs be placed at Peterson Field. With discussion with Mr. McCarthy will gladly place these signs at the field. Mr. Vinci has requested to use the Veteran's Field for the summer program due to the West Haven High School field being redone this summer. With a small fee of covering the OT costs, Mr. McCarthy and the Park Rec department has agreed to let the league have access for use.

Motion to amend agenda back to form was set at 7:52pm by Comm. Coyle. Motion seconded by Comm. Valaitis. Motion carried out by unanimous vote.

Correspondence:

A. West Haven Library: Carrie Bryant from the West Haven Library has requested permission to place scavenger hunt signs on city property at the following:

- Old Grove Park (near the fountain)
- Bradley Point
- West Haven Green (near gazebo)
- Painter Park entrance

The staff will be responsible for placement and removal of the signs. The event is called the Summer Scavenger Hunt.

B. Isaac Quinones: Mr. Quinones has requested to use Painter Park Pavilion as a place to hold a Juneteenth unity ride. The start and end of the ride will be at Painter Park. Mr. Quinones is anticipating about 100 people. This will be a family event. Mr. Quinones is hoping to make this a yearly event in honor of Juneteenth Day.

New Business:

- A. West Haven Library: Motion to approve placement of signs on city property was set by Comm. Coyle. Motion was seconded by Comm. Freel. Motion carried out by unanimous vote.
- B. Isaac Quinones: Motion to table Mr. Quinones request to use Painter Park for his Juneteenth event was set by Comm. Valaitis. The commission has requested to have Mr. Quinones attend the May 2nd meeting for further explanation of his event proposal. Motion seconded by Comm. Freel. Motion carried out by unanimous vote.
- C. Spring Sports: See League Presidents under correspondence
- D. Boat Ramp: City received grant money for a new boat ramp at West River. Mr. Paine is working on it and will keep the commission up to date when updates come in.
- E. New Programs: Mr. Paine states how the department has developed new programs like Pickle Ball, Online computer programming, Guitar lessons. These programs have been very successful so far.
- F. Old Grove Park: Mr. Paine states that he has been working with Tom McCarthy, the Land Trust, and the Beautification on improving the area where trees were cleared out. Mr. Paine explains how he is waiting for approval to hire a surveying company to survey the area.
- G. Transfer Request of Money: Mr. Paine has requested a transfer of funds to cover the cost to survey Parcel I

Maintenance:

A. Other: None

Old Business:

A. Other

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn at 8:29 pm was made by Commissioner Valalitis. Motion seconded by Comm. Freel. Motion carried out by unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Kerri Ruocco

Please note these minutes are subject to approval