

West Haven Parks and Recreation Commission  
Minutes  
March 6, 2023  
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. Beirne, Comm. Valaitis, Park Rec Director Mark Paine.

Absent- Comm. Tompkins, Comm. Freel

Motion set by Comm. Valaitis to amend agenda to public session. This motion was seconded by Comm. Beirne. Motion carried out by unanimous vote.

Public Session: Councilwoman addressed the commission on behalf of Steve Brabham in regards to the music down at the beach. A seasonal program that has been permitted by the Park Rec office for years. Due to previous events last year that created much cost to the city, Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Paine agreed to not bring back the program this year. If a DJ would like to hold an event down at the beach front, they would have to pull a Special Activities Permit by filling out the application. This application requires signatures that may be required for safety reasons, making sure procedures, and rules are followed, and to make sure costs are covered by the permittee. Ms. Watt-Hamilton expresses concern as to why there are issues for the DJ's to pull permits and explains the public has reached out to them wanting the program back. Mr. McCarthy explains how he and Mr. Paine meet with Mr. Brabham in regards to the new process of permitting the music on the beach and how there may be some costs to the permit. Mr. Brabham stated that he did meet with Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Paine, and agreed that he was aware of the new process of getting permits for playing music down at the beach. Councilwoman Katherine Tucker questioned why this new process of getting the permit has been placed. Mr. Paine and Mr. McCarthy expressed the amount of costs to the city was an issue, the amount of people this program has drawn compared to when it first started, and the way the program was promoted. Mr. McCarthy will be setting another meeting with Mr. Brabham prior

to starting the permit process to make sure everyone is on the same page going forward. Mr. Brabham, Councilwomen Watt-Hamilton and Tucker thanked the commission for their time to address this issue and will be sending in a request to be placed on the agenda for next meeting.

Motion set by Comm. Beirne to amend back to the original agenda. This motion was seconded by Comm. Valaitis. Motion carried out by unanimous vote.

Approval of Minutes: February 6, 2023: Motion set to approve minutes by Comm. Coyle. Seconded by Comm. Beirne. Motion carried out by unanimous vote.

Correspondence:

A. Other: None

New Business:

A. Youth League Presidents:

- a. Rich Perno (Shore Haven): Mr. Perno thanks the commission for asking the league to come this evening. Mr. Perno expresses the increase in registration since covid. Game nights and practices will be Monday-Thursday. Practices will start around the week of April 10<sup>th</sup> and games will start the first week in May. Mr. Perno expresses the terrible problem that have keeping the dugouts painted. The paint that was provided to the league by Public Works just peels off. Mr. Chiarelli stated that he will look into a certain primer and paint for the dugouts that should work for them. Mr. Chiarelli also stated that they will have the dugouts power washed first before painting them again.
- b. Amin Rubirosa (Little League): Mr. Rubirosa states that their season will start April 1<sup>st</sup> for practices and the last weekend of April for games. Mr. Rubirosa does state that there are a few dugouts that also could use some new paint and as always field work. Mr. McCarthy explains that the lease contract between the

city and Little League has been expired for almost 10 years and is going to be renewed with agreement of fixing things up in the Little League Field house so that it is up to standard codes.

- c. John Vinci (Youth Soccer): Mr. Vinci addressed Mr. McCarthy with a request of using a paint inhibitor for when lining the fields for games. This paint lasts longer compared to current paint being used. This will help cut back on the needing of cutting the fields weekly compared to only having to do it every couple of weeks. Mr. McCarthy will look into this request. Mr. Vinci states the league is looking into putting a building up at Peterson Field to be used for storage and also have bathrooms. This stage is just discussion and will be looking to start making plans on paper. Mr. Vinci also states the league has \$25,000.00 to put towards this project. Mr. McCarthy, Mr. Chiarelli, and Mr. Vinci will continue to work on this project and will keep the commission and the Park and Rec Department updated. Mr. Vinci has asked for permission to have work done on Founders Field. The Youth Soccer League will pay all costs to Ivy League for work being done. Mr. Vinci explains the league pays yearly in the amount of about \$20,000 in field repairs. Mr. McCarthy gave his permission for Youth Soccer to do these repairs as they are done on a yearly bases.
- d. Mike Kianus (Thursday Night Horseshoes): Mr. Kianus was present for updates that is being done to the horseshoe pits up at the Nike Site. Mr. Chiarelli explained the pits area will be redone, adding benches, a play area for children, grills to be used by anyone, and new back boards for the pits. Mr. Kianus asked if there is any possible way of getting water up there to wet the pits when needed. Mr. Chiarelli explained the cost it would be of running water up to the area. Mr. McCarthy suggested possible getting the city's water truck up there for use. He will see what he can do and get back to the league with information update.

Maintenance:

A. Other: None

Old Business:

DJ Steve Brabham has come to the commission with looking to pull the seasonal permit to play down at the Viewing Deck on the Board Walk. Comm. Coyle stated Mr. Paine and Mr. McCarthy have agreed to have any DJ's wanting to hold an event at the beach will have to submit a Special Events Application and pay whatever costs there may be. Comm. Coyle explains that the City Ordinances and the commission advises to follow what is the ordinances that is set. Comm. Valaitis has set a motion to request Corp Council to go through the City Ordinances that pertain to this situation and advice as to what should be followed. This motion was seconded by Comm. Beirne. Motion carried out by unanimous vote.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn at 8:25 pm was made by Commissioner Valaitis. Motion seconded by Comm. Beirne. Motion carried out by unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Kerri Ruocco

Please note these minutes are subject to approval