

ESSEX PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

September 7, 2011

(Please note these minutes have yet to be approved)

Chairman Michael Holmes called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Members Present: Michael Holmes, Anthony Mosa, James Rawn, Robert Russo, Cathy Bishop

Park and Recreation Director Rick Audet and Program Coordinator Mary Ellen Barnes were also present.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes from the June 1, 2011 were tabled until next meeting.

Financial Updates

Financial Reports were reviewed by Rick Audet

Motion was made by Jim Rawn to accept the financial statements as presented. Tony Mosa seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Director's Report

- A. Fall 2011 brochure – The Park and Recreation Department was informed the by the office of the Region 4 Superintendent of Schools that we will no longer be allowed to hand out our programs brochure to Essex Elementary School children directly via the school. We are working on alternate arrangements to distribute our brochure to the community.
- B. Tennis Court hours (see below)
- C. Part-time maintenance position posted
- D. Hubbard Baseball Field – banners / player use fees – Essex Little League President Mike Sperzel and Boardmember Ron Sparaco presented to the Commission the concept of hanging sponsor banners on the Hubbard outfield fence in order to help Essex Little League raise funds for their program. The Commission discussed the pros and cons of allowing this to occur, it was agreed that the Recreation Director will draft a policy to govern sponsor banners at Hubbard and this will be voted on at the next meeting. It was further discussed that the Essex Little League Board approves the plan proposed by Park and Recreation to install irrigation in the Hubbard outfield to improve the turf conditions in this area. The funds to pay for this project will come from the player use fees Park and Recreation collects each season from all baseball groups and not taxpayer dollars.

Grove Street Park Tennis Courts:

Walter and Regina Wiegert, 33 year residents of Essex who are neighbors of the Tennis Courts requested the lights be shut off at 9pm. The noise caused by the players using the courts and the lights are disrupting their way of life and peace and quiet in their home. They are unable to sleep with the windows open because of the noise and lights and it was especially difficult when they did not have power because of the storm. Mike Holmes stated that their request would be taken into consideration and reviewed. The Commission agreed that they would vote on the issue at the next regularly scheduled meeting. Rick Audet along with members of the commission will go out to the tennis courts directly after the meeting to ascertain the spillage of the lights and noise levels.

Program Managers Report:

Mary Ellen Barnes reviewed the summer camp survey results with the commission, in addition summarized the all the information as to the summer camps.

Parks Update:

Rick Audet reviewed the parks status after the tropical storm Irene and the work requests that have been submitted, what has been completed and what was still outstanding...

Main Street

Professional Field Care performed post storm debris clean-up.
Harbor Commission dock had significant damage / broke away
Storm related tree damage to be addressed, waiting to meet with tree contractor, one tree down / two partial
Drip irrigation system was installed.
Prior tree work was performed including limb touching neighbors roof
Fall aeration, seeding, fert to be performed in next week
Irrigation system will be assessed post tree removal.
Basic fall grounds maintenance ongoing
Stump near water needs to be grinded.
Sea wall crumbling noted concern.

Ivoryton Green

Fall aeration, seeding, fert to be performed in next week. Turf vendor informed to improve quality of turf.
Cedar trees near our mulch bed fell / taken down due to storm damage.
Brush to be cleared out of park in next couple days.
Split rail fence rails need to be reinstalled after brush removed.
Raked, weeded, flower bed
Added topsoil to low areas and holes
Irrigation system will be assessed week of Sep12
Basic fall grounds maintenance ongoing
Removal of asphalt path project upcoming.

Grove Street

Professional Field Care performed post storm debris removal
Two trees are to be removed, check for hangers
Fall aeration, seeding, fert to be performed in next week.
Basic fall grounds maintenance ongoing

Recycle bin installed

Walking path needs to be addressed, spray overgrowth and topdress with new stone

Hubbard Field

Tree damage and downed limbs from storm, meeting w tree contractor

Fall aeration and seeding of outfield area has been completed

Infield to be aerated, seeded, fertilized week of Sep 12, will flag sprinkler heads

Irrigation system will be assessed week of Sep12

New batting cage to be installed during September

Tennis Court

No damage from storm

Blow tennis court weekly

Basic fall grounds maintenance ongoing

Dickinson Park

No damage from storm except minor debris.

PW mowing ongoing.

Viney Hill

No significant storm damage or downed trees

All water tests came in well below acceptable bathing standards for concentration of E. coli

Average of 4.8 beach users per day from 6/25 – 8/8.

Two of four organic fertilizer applications to turf areas completed

Basic fall park maintenance ongoing

Work order to Public Works to clear the Conservation Commission area trail

Phrag removal proximity to beach to be completed soon

Lines and bouys need to be stowed in shed.

Sunset

Removed growth and silt in dock area and along shore near dock per Inland/Wetland permit

Cleared path on west side of pond

Comstock

No significant storm damage / port o let was tipped over

Basic fall grounds maintenance ongoing

Fall aeration and seeding of field areas is completed

Gazebo recently painted, will need a second coat

Gazebo cupola needs to be painted and installed

New stone needs to be placed in front of dugouts on Little League field

Clark's Pond

No noticeable storm damage

Park rules sign needs to be cleaned or possibly repainted/stenciled

Guide rail post at roadway, closest to driveway entrance, needs to be reset

Two low spots or pot holes in driveway need to be filled in / leveled

Basketball Center Update: Jim Rawn acknowledged all the time effort and energy that the subcommittee has committed to this project thus far and that the roll out is underway.

General Discussion

Cathy Bishop notified the commission of the Run Local Read Local Event that she coordinates in Ivoryton.

Motion was made by Mike Holmes to adjourn at 8:42 pm. Tony Mosa seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Barnes

MaryEllen Barnes
Program Coordinator
Essex Park and Recreation