



# Town of Westport Parks & Recreation

## WESTPORT PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION Longshore Club Park, 260 South Compo Road Westport, CT 06880

July 11, 2011

The Westport Parks and Recreation Commission held a meeting in Town Hall, room #201/201A at 7:30 p.m. Those in attendance were Janis Collins, Chairman; Jennifer Johnson, George Franciscovich, Stuart Rogan and Andy Moss; Commission Members; Stuart McCarthy, Director of Parks and Recreation; Dan DeVito, Operations Supervisor and four(4) member(s) of the general public.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Ms. Johnson made motion, seconded by Mr. Stuart Rogan and passed unanimously the following item was added to the agenda:

To take such action as the meeting may determine to approve a request from the Westport Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. to hold a fundraising event at Compo Beach on September 17, 2011.

### 1. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Johnson requested correction of the June 13, 2011 minutes on the following: Page #3 under Commissioner's Reports, last sentence --- I want us to be able to do something before something tragic happens. **ADD (Understanding traffic and pedestrian safety on Rte. 136 is the responsibility of the State of Connecticut.)**

Upon motion by Mr. Franciscovich seconded by Ms. Johnson, the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting of June 13, 2011 were unanimously approved as amended.

### 2. To take such action as the meeting may determine to approve a request from the Westport Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. to hold a fundraising event at Compo Beach on September 17, 2011.

Mr. McCarthy - This is a request by the Westport Volunteer Fire Department for a fundraising event at Compo Beach in September. Mr. DeVito and I met with Mr. Gilbertie and went over the details of the event in order to forward you a staff recommendation. Staff supports this request.

We have in the past done large scale fundraising events at Compo Beach in the off season, which is after Labor Day. What you would be approving in this case would be access to the beach, waiver of the beach emblems for the day, allowing for set up of tents (for cooking only, not for seating). The sponsor would be responsible for additional Parks and Recreation

Department personnel related to traffic and parking. The other condition that we would recommend is that no tickets to be sold on the day of the event so that it would control the admission.

Mr. Ken Gilbertie (Westport Volunteer Fire Department) - This would be a first time event for us. We felt we would like to do a community event and would be willing to comply with all requests that Mr. McCarthy and Mr. DeVito placed before us.

Ms. Collins asked what the money would be used for. Mr. Gilbertie - We are specifically targeting to fundraise for restoration of the original motorized fire apparatus in town which we have possession of, it doesn't work very well and is in storage right now. To do a complete restoration it would be \$70,000. I know we won't raise money with this one event but we need to start getting some visibility with it and we thought this would be a good way to start. We plan on having the vehicle on display on a trailer on that day, so people can see what we are shooting for this is a piece of Westport history.

Mr. Stuart Rogan - How will the wine and beer be controlled?

Mr. McCarthy - If there is selling of alcohol they will need a permit from the State of Connecticut. Once they have that permit the Police Dept. will decide whether or not an officer needs to be present or not. It's based on the anticipated size of the group.

**Upon motion by Mr. Moss, seconded by Mr. Stuart Rogan and passed unanimously, it was**

**RESOLVED: The Parks and Recreation Commission approves the use of Compo Beach by the Westport Volunteer Fire Department, In. to hold a fundraising event on September 17, 2011 in accordance with conditions set forth by the Parks and Recreation Department including:**

- **Waiver of parking emblem for tick holders**
  - **Approval of DJ**
  - **No tickets to be sold on site, advance ticket sales only**
  - **Sponsor required to remove trash generated by the event**
  - **Sponsor to provide proper control to the distribution of alcohol**
  - **Sponsor will be responsible for additional Parks and Recreation Department personnel related to traffic and parking.**
3. To take such action as the meeting may determine to recommend to the Board of Selectmen acceptance of a gift by the Westport Garden Club of a garden at Ned Dimes Marina at Compo Beach in memory of Charles Lucas.

Mr. McCarthy - The Westport Garden Club was the recipient of donations following the death of Mr. Charles Lucas resulting from a boating accident last year. The garden club would like to plant a new landscape garden in front of Ned Dimes Marina building at Compo Beach and would also include installation of a memorial plaque. Mr. Lucas was both an avid boater and a regular visitor of Compo Beach. They spoke to the Lucas family and agreed that would be a good location. The garden club will do the planting, designing and installation, and assist us with the maintenance, but ultimately it will be our responsibility to maintain.

**Upon motion by Mr. Franciscovich, seconded by Mr. Moss and passed unanimously, it was**

**RESOLVED: The Parks and Recreation Commission recommends to the Board of Selectmen acceptance of a gift by the Westport Garden Club of a garden at Ned Dimes Marina at Compo Beach in memory of Charles Lucas.**

4. Old Business

Ms. Collins asked how the fireworks went this season. Mr. McCarthy - The fireworks, as usual were the best night of the year for the Town of Westport. We continue to struggle with the short period of time in which the beach entrance is closed and people trying to get into the beach. It was a great evening. We had a tremendous amount of compliments both the night of the fireworks and the day after. The beach at 8:00 a.m. the next morning was spotless. We also had a lot of compliments about our maintenance staff. I'll go on record as complimenting my staff Dan DeVito, Lee and their staff for doing a tremendous job.

Mr. Franciscovich wanted to commend the staff on carrying out the conditions about monitoring people staking out space on the beach.

Ms Collins – Beach Etiquette – I have received a number of emails from people in regards to saving picnic tables on South Beach. The current process for staff right now is that if somebody reports a problem they will go to check it out to see if somebody is actually there. If no one is there, they ask the party who made the complaint, if they want the table, to take the items off the table. Staff will not remove the items but we are there so if the party comes back we can intervene. There are signs on the tables saying they are not reservable.

Mr. DeVito - At a minimum three times a year we get complaints. If you go down at 5:00 p.m. all of the tables are taken. When our staff is on we hand out a flyer and a garbage bag and we tell them the rules and we tell them you have a chance a losing this table if you leave the site. This past weekend as busy as it was and the weekend before, on each Saturday and Sunday there was at least one table open all day.

Ms. Johnson - I agree it is only three times in which it really comes to intervention of Parks staff to confront. I suspect that it is a weekly occurrence when somebody wants to have a picnic and they can't because somebody has reserved a table.

Ms. Collins - Staff should not be responsible for managing the tables. We have a set of rules that says right on the table "Table may not be reserved." I think there are some frustrations and perceptions out there that it is tough to get a table and grill. I think we should make it clearer out there that if they have a complaint they should go to the staff.

Mr. McCarthy - The perception of the problem is much greater than the reality of the problem.

Commission would like a reminder put on the website that Parks & Recreation Commission reminds everyone that tables at South Beach can not be reserved.

Ms. Collins - Beach Fees - As you recall we had talked about increasing the weekend daily parking fee and tabled it because of some of the concerns we had. I think we need to be prepared to talk about that again at a future meeting, and in general all of the fees.

Mr. McCarthy - At our September meeting we will have a full revenue report. Our revenues are below projections particularly handpasses and beach emblems. The daily parking has held up fairly well.

Mr. McCarthy - Bathhouses - We have been having issues with vandalism at the bathhouses. We are trying to address it with staffing. We are proceeding in trying to find some type of design for the bathhouses where we could renovate the bathhouses, increase the price of them and pay for the project.

Ms. Collins –Sherwood Mill Pond - Sherry Jagerson talked to me about the Sherwood Mill Pond and its need for \$5,000 worth of maintenance work needed every year. She realizes the town can not support the kind of work it needs every year. So she is looking to do a fundraiser.

Mr. McCarthy - Athletic Field Lighting - Our comments have been given back to the Town Attorney.

Ms. Collins - Golf Halfway House - They have met their \$127,500. They have gotten the price down to \$225,000. They have also been getting some donations for in kind services from contractors and also supplies.

5. New Business  
None
6. Commissioner's Reports  
None
7. Administrative Update  
None

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully,  
Sheila Kavey  
Recording Secretary