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Wilton Parks and Recreation Commission

October 8, 2013

Present: Commission Chair Kevin O'Brien, Commissioners, Anne Richards, Mark Ketley, Bryan Dedrick and Steve Pierce, Parks and Recreation Director. Invited attendees were Pete Connolly representing the WSA and Dan McCabe representing the WBSA. Also in attendance was Gino Legaz and a guest that declined to sign in. Chairman O'Brien called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Minutes

Anne Richards made a motion to approve minutes from the September meeting, Kevin O'Brien seconded the motion. The motion passed (3-0).

Facility Use

The Commission invited representatives from the WSA and WBSA to the meeting to discuss their programs that include the participation of non-Wilton residents. Chairmen O'Brien recused himself from this discussion due to his involvement with the WBSA.

Pete Connolly reported on the WSA's youth soccer program called Connecticut Rush, which is a program designed to allow players with skill levels above travel soccer to compete in Wilton. Currently, the program is for the U12 age group and approximately half its players are non-Wilton residents. Pete explained that the program is intended to provide a "Premier" level experience in Wilton so that players don't leave town to play soccer which would result in some residents having no skill appropriate team to play on in Wilton. The program is in its first year and will be monitored for effectiveness. The program has no residency requirements and charges the same fee to all participants. The Commission recognized that in some circumstances non-resident participation may be appropriate and asked the WSA to articulate a policy on non-resident participation. Adult soccer leagues and teams that sometimes play on Wilton fields are not governed by the WSA. The Commission agreed to inquire about the participation in those groups.

Dan McCabe discussed the WBSA's programs and the involvement of non-resident participants. The WBSA does not have a written policy on non-resident participants and does not charge differently due to residency. Dan reviewed the American Legion program which is a regional baseball team, chartered to include players from Wilton and Weston. There are tryouts for the team and no residency quotas. Historically, 2/3rds of the team are Wilton residents. All home games are on Wilton fields. Dan also described three adult teams that use Wilton fields. The Warriors are a team for players under the age of 22, the Barrons are for players under 30 and the Blue Jays are for players over 40. These teams use the fields only when not assigned to other baseball teams and the fields are not lined or prepared specifically for their games. Dan reviewed that the adult leagues often have more non-resident participants than the youth leagues but may include people that work in Wilton, are former residents or have parents/family members residing in Wilton. The Commission asked Mr. McCabe to confer with the WBSA organization and provide the Commission a description or policy on how the WBSA will oversee the leagues and teams that have non-resident participants.

Public Comments

Considering members of the public in attendance requested to comment on this topic, the Commission took comments at this juncture rather than waiting until the end of the meeting. Gino Legaz commented on non-resident participation in the WBSA adult leagues and suggested that Weston, as one of the towns participating in the American Legion league, be asked to host some of the Legion baseball games.

Parks and Grounds

Steve Pierce reported that the roof on Comstock had been repaired and that the entire Comstock repair project was nearing completion.

Toddler Program

Steve Pierce reported that residents continue to express the need for a toddler program. In response to this public interest, Commissioner Dedrick made a motion to request the Parks and Recreation department explore what it would take to make Comstock a licensed site for the Toddler program. Commissioner Richards seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

There being no further business, Commissioner O'Brien moved to adjourn at 9:05pm

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Dedrick

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Commissioner