

Killingworth Parks and Recreation Commission  
Regular Meeting  
March 13, 2023  
Emergency Operations Center, Killingworth, CT

**1. Call to Order:** Jim called the meeting to order at 7:31. Present: Jim Duffield (Chair), Bill Burley, Brian Blair, Chris Smalley, Jeremy Burr, Glenn Johnson, Donna Clark

**2. Approval of the Minutes:** Chris made a motion to approve the February 13, 2023 Minutes. Glen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**3. Visitors:** Lauren Perley, Mike Cunningham (HKLL President), Jason Waterbury, Ed Merola (Shoreline Breakers), Erik Perley

A group representing the interests of youth baseball attended the meeting to brainstorm several different issues including funding for fields, the proposed new field at Auer Park via the state grant, field maintenance and renovation and field application.

Mr. Waterbury began by pledging funding support to the Park and Recreation Commission for baseball fields. The discussion then turned to the proposed field at Auer Park, an all purpose field/ full sized baseball field constructed within a phased process. Glenn Johnson noted that the baseball field is included in the current plan. Chris Smalley noted that a phased approach is necessary due to increased costs and decreased user numbers since the 2009 grant application. Ms. Perley from HKLL suggested a field which could be adjusted for varying age groups utilizing a movable pitcher's mound and bases. This could accommodate many different teams beyond the one team currently in the league which requires a full sized field. All agreed that the Commission needs to quickly take a look at costs for the proposed field and subsequent phases including add or subtract alternates. Also, it will be beneficial to submit the plan soon due to continued rising costs and state requirements. Jim noted that he is willing to share plans of scope of work etc. but must stay within town and state guidelines.

Mr. Merola of the Shoreline Breakers spoke of his desire to donate funds to help to offset costs of field maintenance. He also noted that some of his teams can play only on the Sheldon fields due to size and dimension requirements.

The discussion turned to field maintenance over all of our park locations including the necessity to periodically shut fields down for rest and maintenance. There was a discussion regarding which fields to be closed and when. Also, a discussion of a potential renovation of the Rocco field in order to accommodate multiple user groups. Representatives of HKLL noted an upcoming volunteer clean up at Rocco, addressing old irrigation equipment, dugout paint etc. HKLL will share their long term creative list for improvements around the fields.

The Commission respectfully asked for continued dialog between HKLL and the Shoreline Breakers regarding field use and applications. The Shoreline Breakers application had been delayed until the HKLL applications were submitted. Bill Burley noted that all signs and banners displayed at the baseball fields need to be approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission. All of those in attendance pledged a continued open dialog.

#### **4. Communication, Bills and Application:**

Bills:

Anthony Cari, gatekeeping, Sheldon, \$310 Jan. \$270 Feb.

Pete Cumpstone, gatekeeping, Auer, \$ 280 Feb.

Sweitzer: Sheldon \$112.02

Rocco \$37.34

Auer \$69.08

Bethke \$21.47

Regional Restrooms: Sheldon, \$474, 2 months

Eversource \$49.84 Sheldon

\$69.81 Auer

Glen made a motion to approve the bills, Brian seconded the motion.

There was a discussion about solar power at Sheldon. The motion passed unanimously.

Applications:

HK Rec, Auer field 1, m-f 7/31-8/4, 9am-12pm, Soccer Camp

HK REc Auer field 1, Tues, July 11-Aug 8 Thurs. July 13-Aug 10 Summer Soccer 5pm-6:45

HK Rec, tennis courts July 10-15, M-F 8:30-12 Tennis camp

HK Rec, tennis court, Tues, April 18-June 6, 4:30-6:30pm, Tennis Program for kids 7-13

Field 2 or 4 Over 50 men's soccer, every other Sunday 4/16-6/25

HKLLI:3/20-10/31 Bethke

HKLLRocco 3/20-10/31 Rocco

Breakers 4/1-8/31 Rocco

Brian made a motion to approve the applications, Jeremy seconded the motion. There was a discussion regarding using fields prior to April 1 based on acceptable field conditions.

Jeremy made a motion to extend prior to April 1-July 31 for baseball, weather permitting, Brian seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**5. Treasurer's Report:** 70.8% budget spent, \$20,992.95 remaining

**9. Adjournment:** Bill made a motion to adjourn at 8:55

Respectfully Submitted, Donna Clark

