

**Westbrook Board of Recreation
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2018**

Members Present: Vice Chairman Phil Cocchiola, Matt LaSota, Mike Esposito, Kevin Blair and Melissa Ehlert.

Also Present: Recreation Director Rich Annino and Hiram Fuchs.

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Vice Chairman Phil Cocchiola.

2. Approval of Minutes – September 11, 2018 Regular Meeting:

Upon a motion by Kevin Blair, seconded by Matt LaSota, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2018 Regular Meeting, as distributed.

Public Input:

Hiram Fuchs was present and stated that he feels there is a major problem with the gravel on the children's playground on South Main Street, next to the Fire House. He stated that he wrote a letter to the Board of Selectmen and that the response he got was "It wouldn't be fiscally responsible to make any changes at this time". The gravel is very sharp and both of his kids have been injured. The borders around the gravel are 5" to 6" tall and the children and adults trip over them. He is requesting that the town replace the gravel with something that would be friendlier to the kids. He also stated that he feels the mulch is a fire hazard. He would recommend poured in place rubber and to remake the whole playground into a fire department theme. He is suggesting that the equipment that is there now be moved to the Town Beach because there is definitely room for improvement at the Town Beach. He feels that Wren Park is run down and needs cleaning. There is graffiti everywhere and the outlet covers need to be replaced. Rich Annino stated that this is an on-going problem. He stated that DPW is always cleaning and replacing things. What we need is Police Enforcement. Mr. Fuchs suggested gating the park like the athletic complex near the schools. Wren Park is very active during soccer season. It was stated that all of these requests are for the Board of Selectmen to decide, not the Park and Recreation Board. Mr. Fuchs stated that all the parks in Town need to be overhauled in order to attract younger families to town. Again, it was stated that this would be a Board of Selectmen decision. Mr. Fuchs stated that the gravel located next to the fire house is not ADA compliant for wheelchair accessibility. He further stated that all surrounding towns have great parks. It was stated one more time that for town parks, it would be a Board of Selectmen decision and any school playgrounds would be the decision of the Board of Education, not the Park & Recreation Board.

3. Director's Report – Rich Annino:

- Fall Travel Soccer is over. 2 teams received fines for scoring too many goals. Coaches have been reminded that the teams will be fined \$100.00 if they score over 6 goals. There was a total of 4 fines received.
- Fall Recreation Soccer ended on November 3rd. The Tot Program had 29 kids and the Recreation Program had 24 kids. Andy Calderoni did a great job.
- Travel Basketball will start this weekend. Schedules have not been distributed as of yet. There is one girls' team and 3 boys' teams.
- There is no updates on the proposed Pickle Ball Courts.
- Rich stated that he put together figures to determine the cost of travel soccer. The program costs approximately \$23,530.00 and the income is approximately \$14,430.00 which calculates a loss of approximately \$9,100.00. Rich also, supplied information on what other town clubs charge.

After a long discussion, it was decided to keep the fee for Travel Soccer and Travel Basketball at the current \$95.00 and to keep the uniform policy as it currently is.

Upon a motion by Kevin Blair, seconded by Matt LaSota, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to accept the Director's Report.

4. Old Business:

a. Schedule a Meeting with Teg Cosgriff:

Chairman Anderson has spoken with Mr. Cosgriff and he will be scheduling a special meeting with everyone.

b. Adult usage of Soccer Fields"

There was a discussion regarding drafting a policy for the use of soccer fields by adults.

Upon a motion by Mike Esposito, seconded by Kevin Blair, it was:

VOTED: To deny any requests for use of any soccer fields unless approved by the Park & Recreation Board. If approved, a letter of approval will be given to the requester and must be on hand at the soccer field during use. Also, a deposit will be taken and will be returned upon verification that there is no damage to the field after each use.

(Vote: Ayes: Mike Esposito, Phil Cocchiola, Matt LaSota and Kevin Blair. Abstentions: Melissa Ehlert). The motion carried.

5. New Business:

a. 2019 Meeting Schedule:

Upon a motion by Mike Esposito, seconded by Matt LaSota, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to hold the regular meetings of the Board on the following dates in

Calendar Year 2019: January 15, 2019

March 19, 2019

May 21, 2019

June 18, 2019

September 17, 2019

November 19, 2019

6. Approval of Bills:

Upon a motion by Kevin Blair, seconded by Mike Esposito, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to approve payment of \$79.45 to Katie Kelemen for Secretarial duties for the month of September.

7. Correspondence:

- Copy of letter send to Westbrook Fire Department dated 9/22/18.

8. Adjournment:

Upon a motion by Mike Esposito, seconded by Matt LaSota, it was:

VOTED: Unanimously to adjourn at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: