

**Branford Board of Recreation
Joe Trapasso Community Center
Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2024**

Board Members:

- √- Paul Criscuolo, Chairman
- √- Helen “Bimmie” Herget, Clerk
- √- Jeanne Crowley
- √- Nancy Drevins
- √ - William O’Brien arrived at 7:06p

Staff:

- √- Alex Palluzzi, Jr. Director
- √- Dale Izzo, Assistant Director

Guest: None

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Chairman, Paul Criscuolo. A motion was made to approve the September meeting minutes from 9-11-2024.

1st: Bimmie Herget 2nd: Jeanne Crowley Motion passed 4 -0

II. Correspondences: none

III. Public Comments: none

IV. Directors Report:

Community House: We had a surprise visit from OSHA, which is routine. The good news is that we have a new building. However, they do go through the whole building. We will await a report and make changes as advised. We have 30 days to implement those changes.

Nell Reinwald, one of our part time Administrative Assistants, interviewed on October 8, for the Activities Coordinator for the Senior Center. She has accepted and will start full time as of October 15th.

We will be requesting that the PT Administrative Assistant be considered for full time in the 2025 budget.

The Community House is seeing an increase of activity, especially with the early Presidential Election from October 21 through November 3, and the rescheduling of town meetings to our building here since the Police Department is undergoing renovation starting in November.

We are in the process of filling a FT maintenance position from 8:00am – 4:30pm, and also looking to hire someone part-time in the evenings for the building.

Parks, Grounds and Facilities: We just had an employee sustain an accident while cutting grass. He cut his boot and sustained an injury to his foot around his big toe. All equipment will continue to be checked to ensure safety.

All basketball courts and tennis courts have been redone.

Veteran's Park: Veteran's Park tennis courts need to be redone. It is getting late in the season, if it is not done this fall, it will be done in the spring. We are currently waiting to hear from Representative Robin Comey about state funding of a new playground at Veteran's Park. Electrical work needed at Veteran's Park, it is going out to bid, \$70,000.00 will be transferred from Contingency Account to cover the cost.

Foote Park: Lights at Foote Park are still not working. We will be asking for a \$30,000.00 increase from the Foote Trust for water. It cost \$10,000.00 this year just to operate the splash pad. We also require a lot of water for the clay courts and the fields. \$150,000.00 has been allocated for 6 new dugouts, and new safety fencing at Foote Park. This is anticipated to begin in late October/early November.

Hammer Field: As stated previously, Hammer field is taken a beating due to the field use while the WIS project is happening. We plan to reseed in the spring.

Hammer Field Playground: The handicap playground piece to replace the piece that the Konesky family donated is almost completed and due to come in on October 31, we will have a sign for the playground made up and a dedication sometime in November.

The Bocce Courts: The Eagle Scout project is scheduled to start the week of October 14th; PW will be starting the drainage for that. This is an Eagle Scout Project with donations from the Rotary, Lions Club and Giordano Construction.

Parker Park: Jim Tucker is returning next year and has done a great job with the park.

Our Fleet: Is all up to date.

V. Assistant Directors Report:

Fall classes are under way and going well. We have added in a few more toddler programs partnering with FRC. A new afterschool Enrichment Program at WIS has been started. It is a 6-week program offering Acting Games, Intermural Sports, Wii Sports, Arts and Crafts, Dungeon and Dragons. To date, 36 students enrolled.

The men's basketball league is off to a good start. The MLB/NFL Trivia Night was a success with hot dogs and light refreshments being served. We will continue doing these types of programs.

Our Sarah, Inc Group has been helping all around the building adding in setting up Bingo every Monday.

The \$100,000.00 payment from the Connecticut State Department of Education grant came in. Transportation for summer camp went up a lot this year. We are already working on this for next year to decrease cost and ways to save on transportation.

Family Day was held on the Branford green along with the Counseling Center.

Special Events: The Holiday Tree Lighting and Parade, Santa Delivery with the Branford Fire Department.

Aquatics: The WIS Pool opened and getting a lot of use between swim lessons and open swim. We just ran another lifeguard training class and hopeful to get more lifeguards hired.

VI. Old Business:

Facility & Field Policy: Tabled.

Budget FY2024: The 2024 Budget is closed, and we gave back close to \$20,000.00

VII. New Business:

Naming of Rooms: Tabled.

New Board Member Appointed: Nancy Drevins has been newly appointed to the board.

Bill O'Brien suggested a focus group centered around Senior Programming. Alex has been made Interim Director for the Senior Center.

Next Meeting: November 13, 2024

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn at 8:45 pm

1st Bill O'Brien

2nd: Jeanne Crowley

passed 4-0

Submitted by: Kelly Gesuero