

**Branford Board of Recreation
Joe Trapasso Community Center
Meeting Minutes
August 14 2024**

Board Members:

- √- Paul Criscuolo, Chairman
- √- Helen “Bimmie” Herget, Clerk~
Deborah Conklin
- √ - Jeanne Crowley
- √ - William O’Brien arrived at 7:19p

Staff:

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

Guest:

None

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Chairman, Paul Criscuolo. A motion was made to approve the May meeting minutes from 7-10-2024. 1st: Jeanne Crowley 2nd: Bimmie Herget Motion passed 3 -0

II. Correspondences:

We received several emails from parents regarding Summer Camps, Teen Travel and Theatre Camp, praising the “Absolute Best Park & Recreation”. Camp ran very smoothly this year with Ricky and Victoria doing a great job with their amazing staff. Theatre Camp was praised by parents saying staff was amazing, such a unique camp. People who went to the production of Finding Nemo calling already asking about spots for next year!

III. Public Comments: none

IV. Directors Report:

Community House: The Air conditioning is still very challenging but is now working. The fire alarm went off 8/10/24, Saturday night. Everything was fine; there were just some particles of dust in the system that caused the alarm to go off per the fire department.

The parking lot had the spaces realigned and new traffic pattern will be done towards the end of the month.

Parks, Grounds and Facilities: A ceremony for new piece of equipment that the Konesky family donated is tentatively scheduled for October. The Hammer basketball court is getting redone.

The Bocce courts will be started in the lot next to the parking lot at the Community House.

Foote Park tennis/pickleball courts had to be shut down for a day to fill in the cracks. They will also be painted in the fall.

V. Assistant Directors Report:

We had a very successful Summer Camp season. Ricky did great especially since it was his first time running camp. It was helpful to have the SDE Dollars from the two year grant. They will be going after this year. Closing the site at Stony Creek was fine and we did take field trips down to that park to explore the Stony Creek museum. We absorbed some of those kids into the other camps. Swim lessons have been going good. We had reschedule some lessons due to the inclement weather.

Theatre: The Finding Nemo show was a huge success. Great job by all.

Special Events: There are still many events happening on the green; Way Back Wednesdays, and TGIF have been extended into September due to the inclement weather. The time has been changed to 5pm - 7pm. The Jazz series also has a show that has been rescheduled to September 12th, David Davis from 5:30pm-7:30pm.

We have started to have coffee/lemonade and a snack on Mondays and Fridays for the seniors in the upstairs gallery. It seems to be popular and we have gotten positive feedback.

Pool: The Hospice Pool chlorinator broke down for about a day. It was fixed in a timely fashion and everything is running well. The WIS pool will be open again on September 9th.

VI. Old Business:

Facility & Field Policy: no action taken at this time.

Budget FY2025: Our budget passed. The 2024 budget was very tight as we got to the end of the fiscal year. Alex introduced a letter to Chairman Joe Mooney and the Board of Finance Members asking for transfers within the department's general fund operating budget to close out the 2023-2024 fiscal year, including one transfer from contingency due to a union employee sick leave payout of \$28,800.00. Also, the overtime increases are due to winter, spring, summer and fall weekly events on the Town Green, along with weekend maintenance to the Community House, Foote Park Tennis Courts, Branford Point – Parker Park and Stony Creek restroom trailer. We held 35 events in 2023 on the Town Green and will increase that amount to 40 this year for just Parks & Rec. events. We will address the overtime account in the next budget year cycle.

The Splash Pad at Foote Park came in under budget. Next year we will be asking the Foote Trust for more money due to the watering of the courts and the Splash Pad.

VII. New Business:

Sadly, after being the Director of Parks & Recreation for the past 32 years, Alex Palluzzi, Jr., handed in formal notice of retirement, effective Tuesday, December 31, 2024. Alex has worked for the Branford Parks and Rec. Department for almost 50 years! The Town of Branford has been blessed to have him for all this time and he will be sorely missed.

VIII: Executive Session:

The Board went into Executive Session as 8:00 pm. No votes were taken, nothing was decided.

Next Meeting: September 11, 2024

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn at 8:23 pm

1st Bimmie Herget

2nd: Jeanne Crowley

passed 4-0

Submitted by: Kelly Gesuero