

**AD- HOC Playground Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2008**

In attendance:

Brian Flaherty, Director of Recreation and Parks

Jane Dunlop, Committee Chair

Jerry Lokken, Stacey Wiclachowski, Jody Smith, Melissa Guarnieri, Scott Zettler, Mary Lou Gannotti, Mary Gardner (local resident, physical therapist from birth-3)

The meeting was called to order and immediately after the minutes from the previous meeting were approved

Jane reported about the Rose Sale at the Lion's craft fair. Orders were taken for five dozen roses, with a check given to Stacey for two more dozens sold. Jane sent out an email but did not have much of a response. It was decided that it was a good way to build awareness of the playground. Also 4 playground t-shirts were sold at the craft fair.

A list of local businesses was passed around so that everyone could put in names of people to go to for donations. Letters with a copy of the marketing flyer will be delivered to the businesses within the next few weeks. Jane sent out letters to the school PTA's. Mary Lou mentioned that the letters were just a formality and that follow-up calls would need to be made. Jody Smith has volunteered to be treasurer for the committee and is going to meet with Jane to go over things.

The report for fundraising was that the Waterford Group has been contacted by email. The playground would eligible for a \$5,000-\$10,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Southeastern CT, however an application should be made closer to the time when the money would be used.

Melissa reported that she has put together an ad to post on the cable access station and also a press release for all to look through and email her with suggestions. She has also set up a Yahoo group website, which is open to the community and can be updated with local events and the progress of the playground,. Jody will monitor the group and keep it updated.

Jane put together a yearly calendar of events for 2009 and the fundraising sub-committee will go through it in more detail to determine the fundraising events that the group should take part in.

Melissa has been in touch with the Eugene O'Neill Theatre to determine a date to have a fundraising evening there. It will possibly be available during the last two weeks in March. It was suggested that the event should be kept simple, have some local bands play and have a cash bar. Possibly also have a silent auction or basket raffles. A separate sub-committee will coordinate this event.

There were suggestions to look at the design of the playground to make it not just accessible but more interactive for children of all abilities. The design sub-committee will look at this in more detail, liaising with O'Brien and Sons, and will report back to the main committee. Peter Wallace is the new contact at O'Brien and Sons, as Meghan O'Brien is on maternity leave.

Mary Gardner, a physical therapist for children age birth to three, was also invited to put forward her suggestions for improving the design and will forward those to Jane by email.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:20pm

Submitted by,
Jody Smith