



UNAPPROVED
Minutes of the
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

February 19, 2019

In Attendance:

Phil Kearns, Chairman-via phone
Evie Bottali, Secretary
David Thaxter
Gina Carey
David Shofi

Dennis DiPinto, Director
Kathy Fassman, Marketing
Bobby Schneider, Asst. Dir.-Parks
Jane Byrnes, Secty.

These minutes are a general summary of the meeting and are not intended to be a verbatim transcription.

Meeting called to order by Ms. Carey at 7:32 p.m.

Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Thaxter requested that under Old Business; Ridgefield Aquatics Proposal, be moved up on the agenda. The agenda as amended was approved.

Recognition of Guests:

Ms. Carey welcomed Mr. Jason Muncy representing Ridgefield Aquatics.

Old Business – Ridgefield Aquatics proposal:

Mr. Thaxter reported that the Commission had some core questions for discussion with Ridgefield Aquatics regarding their proposal. These included Commission's support of the proposal, the Commission's and Department's role, Town and Department funding, and operational costs.

After a discussion on the Ridgefield Aquatics proposal, Mr. Thaxter made the following motion:

"Move to support proceeding with conceptualizing and preliminary design for improvements/renovation of the existing Barlow Mountain pool."

Motion seconded by David Shofi and unanimously passed.

A follow-up letter from the Commission will be sent to Ridgefield Aquatics.

Minutes:

The January minutes, as well as the minutes from the sub-committee meetings, were approved as presented.

Financial Status – Phil Kearns:

Mr. Kearns reported that membership numbers were positive in January; however, programs remain soft.

Chairperson's Report – Phil Kearns:

Mr. Kearns reported that he had attended the Board of Selectmen's meeting to discuss the 2019-2020 budgets. Mr. Kearns stated that the Selectmen had a few requests for additional information that Mr. DiPinto will follow up and forward to them.

Director's Report- Dennis DiPinto

- Mr. DiPinto reported that the outdoor crews did well with the school snow removal from the first big storm.
- The Director mentioned that he had attended the Board of Selectmen meeting to discuss the proposed budgets for 2019-2020.
- The Director gave a summary of the current pickleball challenges facing him and the department.



RIDGEFIELD PARKS & RECREATION

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- The Director met with Barbara Manners regarding the upcoming CHIRP season.
 - Director is working with sub-committee and department on the Men's and Women's softball proposals.
 - The Director met with the First Selectman regarding the trail project.
 - Mr. DiPinto is editing the final drone footage for this promotional segment.
 - Working with the IT Department on a new recreation software program.
 - The adult rowing classes are up and running and are very popular. Working with Wellness and summer camp Supervisor to discuss room availability for this summer.
 - Working with staff on the upcoming opening of the Skate Park. With the recent restricting of staff, the Yanity Gymnasium Supervisor will be handling some of the responsibilities of the Skate Park.
 - Working with the front desk staff on customer service and front desk operations.
- Mr. DiPinto reported that due to some medical issues with the project manager of the announcer's booth at Governor Park, Parks and Recreation would be completing the last few finishes on the booth.

Marketing & Programs- Kathy Fassman

Ms. Fassman summarized for the Commission some of the new programs she is working on; some of which include summer volleyball for middle school teens at Martin Park Beach and boating safety. Ms. Fassman stated that the summer camp fair will be held at the Lounsbury House and the staff will attend.

They are working on several events in the month of March; including Spring Fling and other children events. The Commission questioned if we had any interest in the golf classes. Ms. Fassman mentioned there was not enough interest and the class was cancelled. We have sent out our summer camp early registration post card to all residents and the brochure should be going out within the next two weeks.

Assistant Director-Parks – Mr. Schneider:

- Mr. Schneider reported that the outdoor crew has cleared a parking area by Route 35 to help with overflow parking and for those using the walking trail.
- Working with Conservation Committee on a project at Lake Windwing, clearing space to bring back the space to a meadow.
- The Masons will host the Battle of Ridgefield in April and they will have an encampment in Ballard Park.
- Working on fencing repairs at schools.
- Fields meeting scheduled for February 28.
- Working with Town Purchasing on trucks request from 2017-2018. Commission suggested that the Director and Assistant Director set up a meeting with Purchasing Director and Town Controller.
- Working on developing the yearly work calendar.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Buildings & Grounds – Aquatics & Programs - David Thaxter:

Mr. Thaxter reported he was working on the Ridgefield Aquatics proposal. The programs sub-committee will meet to discuss some pickleball challenges.

Annual Goals & Marketing Plans- Evie Bottali:

January membership sales and revenue were positive versus last year. Strong growth in November and December moderated January's increase. Ms. Bottali will be meeting with Ms. Fassman regarding the new membership software.

Budget & Policy-Phil Kearns:

Mr. Kearns mentioned that the sub-committee may have to go back to the Board of Selectmen the first week of March to discuss some budget items.

Special Services & Community Out Reach – Barbara Dobbin:

No current issues at this time.



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Strategic Plan – Gina Carey
No current issues at this time.

Old Business-Ridgefield Aquatics Proposal
Covered above.

New Business
No current issues at this time.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made at 9:25 pm by David Thaxter and seconded by Dave Shofi.

Minutes Approved

Evie Bottali, Secretary

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Motions from the
Parks and Recreation Commission February 19, 2019 Meeting

Old Business-Ridgefield Aquatics Proposal-David Thaxter:

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February 20, 2019