



UNAPPROVED
Minutes of the
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

July 23, 2019

In Attendance:

Barbara Dobbin, Vice Chair
Evie Bottali, Secretary
Kim Hulber
David Thaxter, via phone
David Shofi
Gina Carey

Dennis DiPinto, Director
Eileen Cipolla, Acct.
Kathy Fassman, Marketing
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 Vice Chair at 7:35 p.m.

Recognition of Guests:

Ms. Dobbin introduced and welcomed Mr. Ryan Sierakowski, Eagle Scout.

Approval of Agenda

Ms. Dobbin asked that New Business, be moved up on the agenda. The agenda as amended was approved.

New Business – Eagle Scout Project Report – Ryan Sierakowski

Mr. Sierakowski gave a power point presentation on his Eagle Scout project at Sturges Park. Ryan built a wood structure hold wood for the outdoor cooking stations. The Commission was very impressed with his project and had several questions for Ryan. After a brief discussion, the Commission thanked Ryan for his hard work and great addition to Sturges Park.

Minutes:

The minutes as presented were approved.

Financial Status – Eileen Cipolla

Ms. Cipolla reported that the budget sub-committee had not met in July, however she will be scheduling a meeting for mid- August.

Ms. Cipolla reported that memberships continue to be strong in July with camp revenue ahead of budget projections. Martin Park Beach numbers are still soft for June; however, we are waiting for the results of the July numbers. Yanity Gym is currently ahead of budget and Ms. Cipolla will forward the final reports to the Commission prior to the August meeting.

Chairperson's Report – Phil Kearns:

There was no report at this time.

Director's Report- Dennis DiPinto

Mr. DiPinto summarized for the Commission the recent incident at Richardson Park regarding a swimmer on the cliffs at the Park. There was some discussion regarding jurisdiction, use of the property, signage and patrolling property now that the house is vacant.

The Director is working on capital projects and has met with the Town's Purchasing Agent to discuss bid details.

- Ten outdoor pickleball courts have been lined and are equipped with storage bids and nets.



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- Working with HVAC engineers to see if there is a more efficient energy saving system.
- Received and reviewing plans and specs for the family changing room renovation.
- The Spray Bay surfacing has shown some worn areas and we are working on alternative options for new surfacing.
- Working with Conservation and EverSource on run-off on the Rail Trail after a neighbor contacted department.
- Town held Summerfest in Ballard Park this past weekend, not well-attended due to hot weather conditions.
- The Recreation Team is working on some new and exciting fall programs.
- Have prepared a draft of the Strategic Plan goal assessment to hand out to sub-committee chairs for their review.

The Accountant attended the Town Revenue meeting and was asked about the number of Town sport team players. Mr. DiPinto will follow up on this with the staff.

Marketing & Programs- Kathy Fassman

- Ms. Fassman reported that summer camp is at the halfway mark and numbers are better than last year.
 - o Sent out surveys to all camp participants, have gotten back a few responses. Most concerns were regarding traffic during drop off and pick up times. The Commission asked the Director to follow-up with Ridgefield Police to see if they can give any support.
- The fall/winter brochure will be mailed out by mid-August. Some new programs include coding and STEM.
- The outdoor maintenance staff will be building outdoor volleyball courts at the Recreation Center campus. We will be offering this to high school, middle school and adults.
- Working on up-dating the web-site now that the new software has been installed. The goal is to be able to register for classes on-line by the fall.

Assistant Director-Parks – Mr. DiPinto:

- The outdoor crews are busy working on the school grounds.
- At the suggestion of the safety committee, the department has received the new equipment for the pick up of trash cans that will not only save time, but also help eliminate some workers compensation issues with staff.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Buildings & Grounds – Aquatics & Programs - David Thaxter:

No report at this time.

Aquatics & Programs – Evie Bottali - (David Thaxter)

Mr. Thaxter reported that the Spray Bay pebble-flex flooring is showing some aging. It is no longer covered under the warranty and the department is working on a future solution.

The Spray Bay has been very busy as well as Martin Park Beach. The zoom-floom and water mat at the beach have become a big hit with the younger members.

We have hosted several stand up Yoga classes at the beach that are also very popular.

Annual Goals & Marketing Plans- Evie Bottali:

Once the challenges are cleared with the new software, it was decided that Eileen Cipolla, Kathy Fassman and Evie Bottali would work together on getting the monthly membership reports into a working format.

Budget & Policy-Phil Kearns:

No report at this time.



Special Services & Community Out Reach – Barbara Dobbin:

Nothing to report at this time.

Strategic Plan

Mr. DiPinto handed out a draft of the recent department's Strategic Plan Assessment. The sub-committees will be meeting with the Director and major staff members in the upcoming weeks to review the draft.

Old Business

Nothing to report at this time.

New Business

Moved up on the agenda.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made at 8:40pm by David Shofi and seconded by Gina Carey.

Just a note that the next meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2019 at 7:30pm.

Minutes Approved:

Evie Bottali, Secretary



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