



Commission Meeting Minutes

APPROVED

March 16, 2021

Meeting held via Zoom

IN ATTENDANCE:

Phil Kearns, Chair

Barbara Dobbin, Vice Chair

Evie Bottali, Secretary

David Shofi

Pete Nichols

Gina Carey

Dennis DiPinto, Director

Bob Schneider, Asst Director Parks

Kathy Fassman, Marketing

Eileen Cipolla, Accountant

Amy Platt, Admin Office Manager

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

Meeting called to order by Chair at 6:37pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Gina Carey to approve agenda. Seconded by Barbara Dobbin. Motion carried 7-0.

RECOGNITION AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

No guests in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Gina Carey and seconded by Barbara Dobbin to approve the amended minutes of the February meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

FINANCIAL UPDATE – Eileen Cipolla provided the monthly financial report.

BUSINESS UPDATES

Chairperson's Report – Phil Kearns

- See Budget & Policy updates.

Director's Report – Dennis DiPinto

- Mr. DiPinto is working with the Superintendent of Schools and Buildings Director regarding performance space for spring dance recital.
- Mr. Shofi and Mr. DiPinto had a follow-up call with Richard Baldelli to discuss the conservation easement request from Ridgefield Conservation Commission.
- Considering options for new recreation software to replace eTrak which is no longer compatible.
- Last week Mr. DiPinto also met with Richard Baldelli and Dan to review preliminary plans for additional parking at the Rec Center. There's potential for 20-35 spaces close to the Rec Center



and Founders Hall. The study and preliminary conversations have been well-received. Hoping to get into the Capital budget in the next year or two.

- Additional handicap access/crosswalk at the Rec Center scheduled to be completed this spring.
- Tiger Hollow and Scotts Ridge field replacement discussions continue.
- Ms. Dobbin, Mr. Schneider, Ms. Platt and Mr. DiPinto participated in a planning discussion with members of the Pickleball Advisory committee regarding the new courts at Martin Park. Cost to complete estimated at \$12,000.
- Reviewing and adapting to new Covid protocols being rolled out in March and April.

Marketing/Programs – Kathy Fassman

- Wellness Center and Fitness classes have been busy. Outdoor fitness classes will run this summer under the Evergreen pavilion and on the Rec Center campus.
- Working to get membership renewal letters out this month.
- Swim lesson registration has begun; Martin Park Beach family passes are on-sale; Youth tennis lessons will return this summer.
- Spring/Summer brochure should reach residents very soon.
- New Outdoor Adventure Camp was created for 12-15 year-olds, and will take place at some of our other Parks spaces.
- FREE photo with the Spring Bunny will be offered to members on Saturday, March 27th.
- Outdoor Spring Fling Event – Saturday, May 15th
- Phil and Gina suggest exploring more member-only incentives, and working with the front desk staff to upsell General Rec Members to an All Inclusive Membership.

Assistant Director-Park – Bob Schneider

- Parks staff has been performing playground inspections and clean-up of the XCC trails, athletic fields, and Martin Park.
- Lining up seasonal help.
- Evergreen Pavilion roof material is on back order.
- Finishing up painting inside the Rec Center this week.
- Bids are out for the Barlow Mountain Pool patio doors as well as the Ballard Park gates and fencing.
- Athletic fields should be ready to open during the first two weeks of April.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Marketing, Promotion and Membership – Evie Bottali

- Nothing additional to report, covered by Kathy Fassman.

Aquatics & Programs – Barbara Dobbin

- Impressed with the activity Joyce and the Aquatics team has in-place.
- Meeting to review new Pickleball courts at Martin Park Beach went well and Mr. DiPinto and Mr. Schneider have done a great job laying a plan for the courts with the new Pickleball Advisory team.

**Budget & Policy – Phil Kearns**

- Mr. Kearns reviewed the BOF presentation with the Commission.

Buildings & Grounds – David Shofi

- Working towards updating the athletic field agreement for 2021.
- Mr. DiPinto requested a meeting of the subcommittee to review the number of summer outdoor concerts.

Special Services, Community Outreach and Customer Experience – Kim Hulber

- Nothing new to report per Ms. Fassman who covered in Ms. Hulber's absence.

Strategic Planning and Annual Goals – Gina Carey

- Nothing new to report.

Old Business – Phil Kearns/Barbara Dobbin

- Previous request from the Ridgefield Conservation Commission to designate portion of the Rec Center was voted down. As a compromise, Parks & Rec discussed the potential of granting a conservation easement for a portion of existing campus wetlands property.
- Mr. DiPinto and Mr. Shofi met with Richard Baldelli on February 24, 2021 to better understand the impact the easement would have on the Recreation Center property.
- Mr. DiPinto shared a map for visual representation-only with the Commission indicating the proposed areas for conservation, which are predominantly wetlands.

Motion made by Gina Carey and seconded by Phil Kearns to approve the grant to the Conservation Commission of an easement to certain portions of land on the Recreation Center property for the purpose of identifying the portions of land as being included in a Conservation Commission overall listing of land over which it has certain rights, this approval conditioned on: (1) there being no cost to the Parks & Recreation for the preparation of the easement including preparatory work such as any legal opinions or survey costs and (2) a review and approval by Parks & Recreation of the terms of such easement which would necessarily include a provision to permit termination of such easement in the event that federal, state or local laws or regulations change in a manner that would negatively impact Parks & Recreation in terms of its ability to make use of any of its land not subject to the easement on the Recreation Center property site. Motion carried 7-0.

New Business

No new business to report.

With no further business, Barbara Dobbin moved and Gina Carey seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm. Motion carried 7-0.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 6:30 PM.