



**Town of Ridgefield Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 6:30 pm**  
**Meeting held via Zoom**  
**APPROVED**

**PRESENT:** P. Kearns, B. Dobbin, D. Shofi, P. Nichols, K. Hulber, D. DiPinto, B. Schneider, M. Knox, E. Cipolla, A. Platt

These minutes are a general summary of the meeting and are not intended to be a verbatim transcription. A recording of the meeting will be available for 45 days after said meeting.

<https://www.ridgefieldparksandrec.org/about-parks-recreation/commission>

**Meeting called to order by Chair at 6:30 pm.**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Pete Nichols made a motion to approve the agenda with one modification to move the Financial Report after the Approval of Minutes. Seconded by David Shofi with the modification. Motion carried 5-0.

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS**

Antonio (Tony) Ramos introduced himself to members of the Commission.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Pete Nichols to approve the February minutes. Seconded by David Shofi. Motion carried 5-0.

**Financial Update – Eileen Cipolla**

Ms. Cipolla provided the monthly financial report. Revenue to budget numbers are favorable. Expenses are on track.

**BUSINESS UPDATES**

**Chairperson's Report – Phil Kearns**

Report covered under the Budget & Policy Committee report.

**Director's Report – Dennis DiPinto**

**Project Updates:**

1. Barlow Mountain HVAC Unit: Operating well since its replacement.
2. Barlow Mountain Pool Locker Room Renovations: Waiting for architect plans for Phase II; Anticipate work to begin this summer.



3. Lighting Upgrades (LEDs) at the Rec Center: Got underway this week.

**Meetings Attended:**

- Attended 2<sup>nd</sup> Round BOS Budget review, Monthly Revenue and Monthly Budget & Policy Committee meetings
- Met with Pickleball Sound Mitigation specialist and await a report with their findings to share with P&Z
- Continue talks with Steve Zemo regarding the Prospect Ridge Courts project, including noise and traffic concerns
- Met with Joe Ternullo from the Commission on Aging to discuss results of the recent aging population survey
- David Shofi and I met with Cheryl Cook regarding controlling invasive species on the Rec center walking trails
- Met with Jake Muller regarding LED lighting upgrades inside the Rec Center and the work has started

**Staff Updates**

- Two recent promotions: Michaelene Lynch was promoted to Aquatics Supervisor and Hope Gustafson to Sr. Aquatics Coordinator. This leaves an open Aquatics Coordinator.

**Assistant Director of Parks' Report – Bob Schneider**

- Expect completion of the Ballard Park stage resurfacing in about a month, weather permitting
- Dog park fence replacement will begin in April, and park will remain open during the work
- Security camera replacement is planned for Ballard Park, Sturges Cabin & exterior of the Rec Center
- Donated metal sculptures will be installed soon on the Rec Center campus
- Barlow Mountain Pool had a roof leak that's currently being addressed

**Assistant Director of Program Operations' Report – Mary Knox**

- Online program registrations are trending towards a 70% online registration rate
- April 1 – Martin Park Beach registration begins
- Summer program guide was mailed to residents
- Currently advertising for seasonal summer staff
- Aquatics held a St. Patrick's Day activity in the pool for children
- March 22 - Flashlight Egg Hunt event at the Rec Center for Grades 3-5
- March 23 - Rotary Club's annual Egg Scramble planned in Ballard Park
- Will participate in the Touch-a-Truck at Lounsbury House during Ridgefield Summerfest



- Zoom Floom will be replaced and the beach will be cashless this year.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Kearns opened up the floor for Committee Chairs to report any updates for their respective committees.

### **Buildings & Grounds – David Shofi**

- Prospect Ridge Courts Project:
  - Members of the committee met with BOS to answer questions regarding parking, noise, EV charging station, lighting, etc.
  - Met with a sound expert who will be providing a modeling report specific to that area, including how noise levels could be reduced by sound proof fencing
  - Mr. Shofi recognized that Mr. Zemo has plans to speak at an upcoming BOS meeting
- Met with Cheryl Cook to discuss control of invasive species on the Rec Center walking trails; Mr. Kearns recommended that if Ms. Cook plans to form a separate committee for this initiative that a member of the PRC volunteer on that committee.

### **Budget & Policy – Phil Kearns**

Mr. Kearns reminded the Commission that the BOF Budget Deliberations is scheduled for April 1 and asked who plans to attend. Ms. Dobbin will represent the PRC at the meeting, along with Mr. DiPinto. The BOF Public Hearing is Monday, March 25.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### 1. Discussion of Commission Committees

- Mr. Kearns recommended a consolidation of current committees
- Some committees would be renamed under the proposed changes
- Committees would be assigned specific months to report on their initiatives
- As a next step, Mr. Kearns suggested each committee, and Parks and Rec staff meet over the next two months to 1) discuss roles and responsibilities, and 2) identify ways they can focus on what's most important to enhancing the work of the department.

With no further business, Phil Kearns moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:53pm. Seconded by Pete Nichols.

**REMINDER: Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 6:30 pm via Zoom.**