



**Town of Ridgefield Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 6:30pm**  
**Meeting held at Ridgefield Recreation Center**  
**APPROVED**

**PRESENT:** P. Kearns, B. Dobbin, E. Bottali, D. Shofi, P. Nichols, K. Hulber, D. DiPinto, B. Schneider, A. Platt, K. Fassman

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 6:50 pm.**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Barbara Dobbin made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Pete Nichols. Motion carried 5-0.

**RECOGNITION OF GUEST**

One non-speaking guest was present - Karen Sulzinsky, 24 Great Pond Rd., Ridgefield, CT

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Barbara Dobbin to approve the April minutes. Seconded by David Shofi. Motion carried 5-0.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Phil Kearns provided the monthly financial report on behalf of Eileen Cipolla. Projected revenue and expenses are on-target.

**BUSINESS UPDATES**

**Chairman's Report** – Phil Kearns

- May 2nd Town Meeting – All P&R budgets approved with no changes

**Director's Report** – Dennis DiPinto

- Met with Rudy & two members of the public to discuss potential funding for new skate park designs
- Attended solar panel pre-construction meeting with Justin Paradis
- Leadership coaching sessions continue with myself and members of the supervisory staff
- Attended monthly revenue meeting at Town Hall



- A couple of staffing updates: New Parks Maintainer, Craig Palochik starts on Monday & Andrea Maiorano resigned as Youth Programs Supervisor. Brendan Carney will step into that role for the summer and we will find coverage for Yanity Gym/Skate Park.
- New block scheduling contract in-place with Ridgefield Basketball Association

#### **Marketing & Programs – Kathy Fassman**

- Summer brochure is planned to help increase family memberships and sales of specialty camps (In-home: early June)
- In talks with instructors for fall and winter programs

#### **Asst. Director Parks – Bob Schneider**

- MPB maintenance is nearing completion - Painted exterior of bath house, new lifeguard chairs, walkway repairs, floats are in the water and Zoom Flume is out for repair
- Pest management underway on athletic fields & parks
- June 27th is first CHIRP concert of the season in Ballard Park
- Irrigation control boxes being installed at athletic fields
- Spray Bay will be automated for the summer season and is being tested weekly
- For the July fireworks, tarps will cover the radius of the track and portions of Tiger Hollow field

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Marketing, Promotions & Membership – Evie Bottali**

Covered under K. Fassman's report

#### **Aquatics & Programs – Barbara Dobbin**

Nothing new to report

#### **Budget & Policy – Phil Kearns**

- All Capital items under \$100,000 were approved at the annual town meeting.

#### **Buildings & Grounds (B&G) – David Shofi**

- Committee is awaiting the survey to be complete, and will prepare the special permit application once all documentation is ready.
- Skate Park future opportunities were covered under the Director's report.

#### **Special Services, Community Outreach and Customer Experience – Kim Hulber**

Nothing new to report.

#### **Strategic Planning & Annual Goals – Phil Kearns**

- Mr. Kearns and Mr. DiPinto will review the annual assessment template prior to the June



meeting.

- Ms. Dobbin asked that a copy of the strategic plan be shared with the BOS as promised during her reappointment to the P&R Commission. Mr. Kearns agreed to follow-up on this request.

### **New Business**

Mr. Kearns shared the nominations for Commission Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary as follows:

- Chair: Phil Kearns
- Vice Chair: Barbara Dobbin

Mr. Kearns opened up nominations from the floor. Mr. Shofi nominated Evie Bottali as Secretary, and the nomination was accepted by Ms. Bottali.

With no further nominations, Phil Kearns declared the nominations closed, and Kim Hulber made a motion to approve the slate for 2022 Commission Chair Phil Kearns, Vice Chair Barbara Dobbin, and Secretary Evie Bottali. Seconded by Pete Nichols and motion carried 5-0.

Kim Hulber made a motion to elect Phil Kearns as Chair, Barbara Dobbin as Vice Chair, and Evie Bottali as Secretary. Seconded by Pete Nichols. Motion carried 5-0.

With no further business, Phil Kearns moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50pm. Barbara Dobbin seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

**Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 6:30 pm via Zoom.**