



Town of Ridgefield Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at 6:30 pm
Meeting held via Zoom
APPROVED

PRESENT: P. Kearns, B. Dobbin, D. Shofi, E. Bottali, 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 post:

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

Meeting called to order by Chair at 6:39pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

BUSINESS UPDATES

Chairperson's Report – Phil Kearns

Nothing new to report outside of the committee reports.

Director's Report – Dennis DiPinto

- Project Updates:
 1. Draft of the FY2024 Capital budget was shared with Phil today. Budget & Policy Committee will meet and review in more detail.
 2. Rec Center: floors were replaced in four rooms.
 3. Barlow Mountain Pool Dehumidification: HVAC unit delivery is expected in September.
 4. RAC Barlow Mountain Pool Improvements: Phase 1 includes the construction of a single restroom and new starting blocks were installed last week.
 5. Governor Park Courts Project: Concrete was poured and is curing; Project is scheduled for completion Spring 2024.
- Meeting Attendance:
 1. At the Superintendents' request, Bob, Walter Schuett and I are doing site visits with Dr. DaSilva and all of the Ridgefield public school principals to review outdoor maintenance needs.
 1. RBA / Yanity Gym partnership discussions were had related to a long-term contract
 2. Department Head meeting
 3. Monthly Revenue Meeting
 4. Monthly Budget & Policy Committee Meeting



Financial Update – Eileen Cipolla

Ms. Cipolla provided the monthly financial report. Revenue and expenses are on-target.

Assistant Director of Parks' Report – Bob Schneider

- Annual Rec Center pool maintenance is complete.
- Storage areas have been purged and reorganized; New storage shed was installed at the Rec Center.
- RYF was granted permission by Planning & Zoning to utilize lights at the East Ridge Middle School field which will allow for additional field use and less conflicts with baseball.
- Fall sports are all underway; Some fields have been reseeded.
- Main Street clock is back in working order.
- Dog Park erosion issues will be addressed this fall.
- Skate Park asphalt will receive a seal coating/crack repairs.
- Fencing bids will go out soon for dog park and Ballard Park fencing.

Assistant Director of Program Operations' Report – Mary Knox

- Summer camp attendance was up compared to 2022.
- Post-summer meetings will take place with staff to discuss what worked well/what didn't.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Marketing & Promotions – Evie Bottali

Nothing new to report.

Membership – Kim Hulber

Working on developing plans for acquisition, retention and member life cycles, customer satisfaction surveys.

Aquatic & Programs – Barbara Dobbin

Nothing new to report.

Budget & Policy – Phil Kearns

After a quick review of the first draft of FY2024 Capital...dates, etc.

Buildings & Grounds – David Shofi

- Pleased to hear of all the improvements to our facilities inside and out.
- Native Plant Policy: Will be scheduling time to meet with the Conservation Commission prior to the BOS October 11th regular meeting.
- Met to discuss field usage policy following a request from softball
- Dog Park concerns were shared by a member of the public; Committee to schedule a time to meet to review the areas of concern and revisit with the person who shared the concerns.

Special Services & Community Outreach – Pete Nichols

Nothing new to report.



With no further business, Kim Hulber moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:36pm. Barbara Dobbin seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

REMINDER: Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 17 at 6:30 pm via Zoom.