



Town of Ridgefield Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 6:30pm
Meeting held via Zoom
UNAPPROVED

PRESENT: P. Kearns, B. Dobbin, E. Bottali, P. Nichols, G. Carey, K. Hulber, D. DiPinto, B. Schneider, K. Fassman, E. Cipolla, A. Platt

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 6:33 pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

RECOGNITION OF GUEST

No guests were in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Barbara Dobbin to approve the February minutes with one requested change: Add Gina Carey to the list of attendees. Seconded by Pete Nichols. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion made by Pete Nichols to approve the March minutes. Seconded by Barbara Dobbin. Motion carried 5-0.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

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

BUSINESS UPDATES

Chairman's Report – Phil Kearns

- Board of Finance presentation went well.
- Mr. Kearns shared a map featuring a vacant parcel of land formerly owned by The Port of Missing Men near Sturges Park that The Ridgefield Conservation Commission is proposing P&R take responsibility for. A decision should come in a few months.
- Mr. Kearns shared the news that Gina Carey will be stepping down as a P&R Commissioner at the end of April.

**Director's Report – Dennis DiPinto**

- Attended monthly revenue meeting at Town Hall, as well as mid-month review with Department heads & Governor Lamont
- Attended Board of Finance meeting & public hearing on the annual budget
- Participated in monthly SPIF meeting
- Friends of P&R is the recipient of two new grants totally \$7,500 for enhancements to our walking trail.
- Spoke with Barbara Manners about applying for an alcohol waiver for CHIRP concerts in Ballard Park
- Met with Jill Bornstein to kick-off Workplace Leadership Coaching Sessions; Supervisors have been assigned pre-work and will be meeting with Jill individually before the end of the month.
- The Egg Scramble event returned this year to Ballard Park. It was a very nice time thanks to support from The Ridgefield Rotary Club.
- Met with IT and Cogran regarding current rec software performance and speed

Marketing & Programs – Kathy Fassman

- March promotions: Martin Park & Adventure Day Camp early bird discount offers were strong performers
- Two events in March: Spring Fling & Meet the Animals were well attended

Asst. Director Parks – Bob Schneider

- April 30-May 1: Battle of Ridgefield event is scheduled; Outdoor Maintenance staff will be on-hand to assist.
- Automating Spray Bay system for ease of operation this summer
- Pre-season Skate Park repairs were completed with some additional ramp repairs planned for this summer.
- LED lighting upgrades will take place throughout the Rec Center over the next several months.
- Field irrigation upgrades will begin in a few weeks.
- New date for the town's July Fireworks is scheduled for July 9th with rain date of July 10th
- A new Rotary Club sign was installed over The Sky's the Limit playground, replacing the original sign which had become weathered.
- The fountain has been uncovered for the season.

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**

- Covered under Chairman's report; Monday, May 2nd is the BOF public meeting
- Nominations for Commission Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary positions are due on or before the May 17th meeting.

Buildings & Grounds (B&G) – Phil Kearns provided update on behalf of David Shofi

- Pickleball at Martin Park: P&Z commission ordered that the pickleball play cease until special permit application process is completed. Therefore, the pickleball courts have been closed from that date. Subcommittee will proceed with haste to get the application completed once the survey is complete.
- Skate Park: Dennis is meeting with Rudy this week to discuss a proposal for funding a design study that includes upgrades to the park.

Strategic Planning & Annual Goals – Gina Carey

- Ms. Carey shared the annual goals assigned for the P&R sectors along with the process for completing the annual assessment.
- Mr. DiPinto will share the annual assessment with each subcommittee chair over the next week.

Special Services, Community Outreach and Customer Experience – Kim Hulber

Nothing new to report.

Old Business

No old business to report.

With no further business, Barbara Dobbin moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm. Gina Carey seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 6:30 pm at the Ridgefield Recreation Center.