



Town of Ridgefield Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 6:30 pm

Meeting held via Zoom

APPROVED

PRESENT: P. Kearns, D. Shofi, E. Bottali, 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 6:36 pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

David Shofi made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Evie Bottali. After some discussion, David Shofi motioned to move New Business before the Chairman's report. Seconded by Evie Bottali. Motion carried 4-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by David Shofi to approve the March minutes. Seconded by Evie Bottali. Motion carried 4-0.

RECOGNITION OF GUEST

Colin Nelson, Eagle Scout candidate

NEW BUSINESS

Colin Nelson presented his proposed Eagle Scout Project for improvements to the exterior of Sturges Cabin.

David Shofi made a motion to approve the project, subject to additional research and barring any undue hazards with the proposed designs. Seconded by Kim Hulber. Motion carried 4-0.

BUSINESS UPDATES

Chairperson's Report – Phil Kearns

Presented the P&R budget at the BOF on March 27th. All other updates will be covered under the committee reports.

Director's Report – Dennis DiPinto

- Attended Monthly Revenue & Budget & Policy Committee meetings.
- Project updates:
 1. Rec Center Gymnasium Floor replacement is complete. Very pleased with the outcome.
 2. Barlow Mountain Pool HVAC is still on track to begin this summer.



3. RAC Steering Committee for Barlow Mountain Pool improvement project – fundraising continues and Mr. DiPinto, Jason Muncy and the First Selectman will meet to discuss ideas for additional funding.
- Mr. Kearns and Mr. DiPinto took a meeting with a pickleball player who is also a landscape architect and he shared some ideas for court design.
 - Met with a resident who is interested in bringing Cricket to town and another who is interested in Disc Golf.
 - Attended monthly SPIF meeting which lead to a follow-up discussion with Joe Ternullo from the Commission on Aging regarding programming for adult seniors in the community.
 - Last month Mr. DiPinto shared that news of Jim Rafferty's retirement from the Rec Center. Megan Roche has been promoted to Member Services Supervisor beginning May 2nd.

Financial Update – Eileen Cipolla

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

Assistant Director of Parks' Report – Dennis DiPinto reported on behalf of Bob Schneider

- Athletic fields are all open for the season.
- Beautification has started around the Rec Center and mowing will begin next week.

Assistant Director of Program Operations' Report – Mary Knox

- Flashlight Egg Hunt on March 31st was a great success
- 20th Birthday of the Rec Center Celebration will take place on Sunday, April 23rd with free family activities. Mr. Shofi asked if we considered a story in the Ridgefield Press to commemorate the 20th Birthday event. Ms. Knox agreed to look into it.
- Attended a couple of events at RHS to promote summer job opportunities.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Marketing & Promotions – Evie Bottali

Nothing new to report.

Membership – Kim Hulber

Nothing new to report.

Aquatic & Programs – Barbara Dobbin (absent)

Budget & Policy – Phil Kearns

As previously reported during the Chairman's report, the annual budget was presented at the BOF meeting and YTD results were reviewed at the B&P committee's regular monthly meeting.

Buildings & Grounds – David Shofi



- Meeting is scheduled with representatives from the Conservation Commission and the Tree Warden on April 19th to discuss concerns regarding the Town's non-native plant policy.
- Looking forward to the plans for grounds work and improvements coming up this summer.

Special Services & Community Outreach – Pete Nichols (absent)

With no further business, David Shofi moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 pm. Kim Hulber seconded the motion and the motion carried 4-0.

REMINDER: Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 16th at 6:30 pm via Zoom.