



Commission Meeting Minutes

APPROVED

October 19, 2021

Meeting held via Zoom

IN ATTENDANCE:

Phil Kearns, Chair

Barbara Dobbin, Vice Chair

Gina Carey

Evie Bottali

David Shofi

Dennis DiPinto, Director

Kathy Fassman, Marketing/Programs

Eileen Cipolla, Accountant

Amy Platt, Admin Office Manager

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 6:39 pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Barbara Dobbin made a motion to amend the agenda and move Karen and Jack Sulzinsky from New Business to the top of the agenda and approve agenda. Seconded by David Shofi. Motion carried.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

- Karen and Jack Sulzinsky

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Barbara Dobbin to amend the September minutes to add Mr. Shofi to the list of attendees, and approve the minutes. Seconded by David Shofi. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

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

BUSINESS UPDATES

Chairperson's Report – Phil Kearns

- Updates covered in the Buildings & Grounds and Budget & Policy subcommittee reports.

Director's Report – Dennis DiPinto

- Scott's Ridge Middle School turf replacement is complete. Tiger Hollow 1 is scheduled to be completed November 4th for the team's last home game of the season.
- Met with Rudy Marconi and AJ Romeo from RBA to discuss install of HUDL cameras at Yanity Gym
- After an initial testing phase, the new rec software will go live in the next two weeks.
- Partnering with RAC on a capital budget improvement project for replacing Barlow Mountain pool gutters (late spring 2022)



- Estimates for the ECDC Ballard Park improvements are in the works (gazebo, stage, lighting and town clock on Main St.).
- Completed annual performance reviews with members of the Supervisor staff
- Reviewed proposed membership rate increase with subcommittees
- Attended monthly revenue meeting
- Gearing up for October/November events at the Rec Center
- Working on capital estimates for Barlow Mountain pool repairs, tennis/basketball courts at Governor Park, and Rec Center parking expansion plans.
- Progress is also being made to complete 20 additional parking spaces at the Rec Center by late November.
- Mr. Kearns asked when the new handicapped spaces at the Rec Center will be painted. Mr. DiPinto confirmed that this should be complete before winter.
- Ms. Dobbin asked if P&R could update the Rec Center marketing video with new footage from the Wellness Center.

Marketing & Programs – Kathy Fassman

- Ms. Fassman is targeting new programs for families with children ages 3-5 years old.
- Working to increase membership especially among new residents in town
- Winter brochure will be distributed in December with a strong fitness focus; Featuring newly renovated Wellness Center.
- Halloween Howl & Election Day Family Fun events will take place in October/November.

Asst. Director Parks – Dennis DiPinto on behalf of Bob Schneider

- Routine outside maintenance underway. Walking trail is complete and curtain was backfilled.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Marketing, Promotions & Membership – Evie Bottali

Nothing new to report.

Aquatics & Programs – Barbara Dobbin

Ms. Dobbin will schedule on-going meetings with the heads of each of the P&R departments.

Budget & Policy – Phil Kearns

First capital review will be scheduled in the next few weeks and voted on in December. Proposed budgets will be voted on in January.

Buildings & Grounds (B&G) – David Shofi

Mr. Shofi shared the details of the recommendation from the subcommittee regarding the complaint of noise from the Martin Park Pickleball courts as outlined in Attachment A. Mr. Shofi also reviewed the due diligence in reaching this recommendation.



Mr. Kearns read an email he received earlier today from Ridgefield resident Nicholas Kouroupas regarding the location of the Martin Park courts.

Discussion among the Commission was had.

Gina Carey made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Buildings & Grounds committee after the new business discussion concerning the Pickleball courts at Martin Park. Seconded by Barbara Dobbin. Motion carried.

Special Services, Community Outreach and Customer Experience

Nothing new to report.

Strategic Planning and Annual Goals

Phil, Gina and Dennis will meet in November to discuss strategic plan/goals for 2022.

Old Business

No old business to report.

New Business

1. Karen and Jack Sulzinsky requested to address the Commission regarding the Martin Park Pickleball courts. The Sulzinsky's previously shared their thoughts with the Buildings & Grounds subcommittee regarding the Martin Park courts, and requested to reserve comments until after the subcommittee report.
 - Ms. Sulzinsky shared that Pickleball is creating a destructive noise situation, even when the windows are closed, and impacting their quality of life.
 - Ms. Sulzinsky confirmed their property is approximately 100 yards from the courts.
 - Mr. Kearns explained this was The Sulzinsky's time to make their comments to the Commission, but the meeting would proceed without further comment.
 - Ms. Sulzinsky said she wanted to comment/provide a reaction after the Commission decision.
 - Ms. Sulzinsky urged the Commission to relocate the Martin Park courts to an appropriate location for next season.
 - Mr. Sulzinsky expressed appreciation to the Commission for their service to the town, but said this has made life very unpleasant for us.

2. Reviewed proposed price increases for all membership levels effective December 1, 2021.
 - Gina Carey made a motion to approve an annual membership price increase of \$36 for Rec Memberships/\$48 for Wellness, Lap and All-Inclusive memberships with flexibility to the timing of when to implement. David Shofi seconded. Motion carried.

With no further business, Phil Kearns moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 pm. Seconded by David Shofi. Motion carried.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 6:30 pm via Zoom.



Attachment A

Martin Park Pickleball Noise Complaint

1. WHEREAS the addition of four (4) pickleball courts at Martin Park proved to be a carefully considered and successful solution to an underserved portion of the Ridgefield Pickleball community,
2. WHEREAS the courts were built in partnership with the Pickleball community, who were fully supportive and contributed significantly to their cost,
3. WHEREAS the courts are being used with great satisfaction by the pickleball players and has fulfilled its goal of adding to pre-existing but courts not exclusively dedicated to pickleball play,
4. WHEREAS the courts were added to an existing deeded recreation area with third party recreational services in the neighboring property in the form of a golf performance center that for many years was a public driving range and mini-golf course,
5. WHEREAS direct readings of the noise level measured as emanating from play on the courts does not approach any decibel level of concern with respect to the town ordinances,
6. WHEREAS several visits to the Martin Park site and surrounding areas by members of the Committee and staff of P&R did not find any objective qualitative or quantitative concerns for noise to justify introduction of any noise abatement options,
7. WHEREAS any possible noise abatement options would have significant cost, uncertain levels of impact on any noise and possibly questionable aesthetics,
8. THEREFORE, the recommendation of the Committee is that we as a Commission vote to not proceed to add any further limitations to the use of the pickleball courts at Martin Park but rather maintain the plans already adopted for 2021 which include modified playing hour start times and use of alternative courts for P&R lessons.