



Town of Ridgefield Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 6:30 pm
Meeting held via Zoom
UNAPPROVED

PRESENT: P. Kearns, B. Dobbin, D. Shofi, P. Nichols, A. Ramos, D. DiPinto, B. Schneider, 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 after said meeting.

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

Meeting called to order by Chair at 6:33 pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

David Shofi made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Seconded by Tony Ramos. Motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

BUSINESS UPDATES

Chairperson's Report – Phil Kearns

- Attended Mr. Ramos interview / appointment to the PRC with the BOS earlier this month.
- At the May meeting, we will hold elections for new officers. Commission members interested in an officer position should email Mr. Kearns before the May 21 meeting.
- Mr. Kearns requested feedback and/or goals from members of the Commission for Mr. DiPinto's annual review.
- Each of the Committees will meet before the May meeting to review their specific areas of focus for 2024 which will be shared at a future meeting.

Director's Report – Dennis DiPinto

Meetings attended:

- Energy Task Force
- LED upgrades where completed at the Rec Center
- BOF Public Hearing & Budget Deliberations
- At the last BOS meeting we were asked to shift our focus from potential pickleball courts at the Prospect Ridge location to a location on the Rec Center campus. Jan Goldfluss provided



some mock-ups for the Facilities & Grounds Committee to review.

- Spoke with Cheryl Cook about the assessment of invasive species that she's working on a plan to help control on the Rec Center trail.
- Dept. Head Meeting focused on cybersecurity; The Town's IT Dept is requiring Commission members to have town emails; Dennis will coordinate a Zoom meeting with IT to answer questions.
- Staff Training was held on LGBTQ+ Cultural Sensitivity
- RAC Steering Committee met re: Barlow Mountain Pool locker room renovations; Project has not gone out for bid yet.
- Mr. DiPinto shared that there was a medical incident that took place on April 2 while a member was swimming laps and was rescued from the pool and CPR was administered. The member later passed away at the hospital from a cardiac-related episode. Mr. Kearns complimented the training of the aquatic staff for following all procedures.

Financial Update – Phil Kearns

Mr. Kearns provided the monthly financial report. Revenue and expenses are all on-track.

Assistant Director of Parks' Report – Bob Schneider

- Seasonal Outdoor Parks Maintainers have been hired for the spring/summer season.
- Ballard Park stage resurfacing will be completed prior to the first CHIRP concert in late May.
- New section of fence that connects the CVS entryway to the Ballard Park playground is complete.
- Dog park fence replacement will be completed in about 2 weeks; Dog Park will remain open during the work.
- School courtyard clean-up is underway this week while students are out on break.
- Community water testing is complete for the ball fields/concession stands.
- Some minor playground repairs were completed in the past couple of weeks.
- A few sections of the fountain cover are in need of repair before it goes back on the fountain in October.
- Donated metal sculptures will be installed soon on the Rec Center campus

Assistant Director of Program Operations' Report – Dennis DiPinto

- April 28th - Spring Fling Event is scheduled at the Rec Center.
- Megan Roche, Member Services Supervisor is working with the Conservation Commission and other community groups to create a Summer Trekking program.
- A survey is planned to gain feedback from our pickleball members.
- Martin Park Beach and Summer Camps registration are both underway.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Kearns opened up the floor for Committee Chairs to report any updates for their respective committees.

Facilities & Grounds – David Shofi

- **Prospect Ridge Courts Project**
 - Since our last meeting, Steve Zemo presented opposition of the Prospect Ridge Pickleball Courts at a BOS meeting citing concerns over noise among other things.
 - The BOS made the decision to cease further spending on the project for now.
 - A recommendation was made to the PRC to assess an area on the Rec Center property as an alternate location. The Committee has agreed to revisit this and other optimal sites/locations for pickleball courts in the future.
 - Mr. Kearns sent a letter to the BOS objecting to their decision while the PRC was still in the process of evaluating the Prospect Ridge site.

- **Invasive Plant Control Project**
 - Continuing this effort headed by Cheryl Cook and funding through Friends of Ridgefield Parks and Recreation.

With no further business, Phil Kearns moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 pm. Seconded by Barbara Dobbin. Motion approved.

REMINDER: Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 6:30 pm via Zoom.