



UNAPPROVED
Minutes of the
Parks and Recreation Commission Special Meeting

December 11, 2018

In Attendance:

Phil Kearns, Chairman
Evie Bottali, Secretary
David Thaxter
Barbara Dobbin, Vice Chair
David Shofi
Gina Carey

Dennis DiPinto, Director
Kathy Fassman, Marketing
Eileen Cipolla, Acctg.
Jane Byrnes, Secty.

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 7:34 p.m.

Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Kearns requested that New Business be moved up on the agenda. The agenda as amended was approved.

Recognition of Guests:

The Chairman recognized the following guests:

Mr. Jason Muncy, 24 Belvedere Ct. Ridgefield
Ms. Marcia Riebling, 44 Beaver Brook Rd., Ridgefield
Ms. Sandra Smith, 25 Black Pine Ridge, Ridgefield

All are representatives from the Ridgefield Aquatic Club (RAC).

Minutes:

Mr. Kearns made a correction to the minutes of the November meeting. On page four, under Budget & Policy; should read "Mr. Kearns reported that the sub-committee and staff have reviewed the first draft of the capital budget and they will"

The minutes as amended were approved.

New Business-Ridgefield Aquatics Presentation

Mr. Muncy introduced himself and the other members of RAC. Mr. Muncy gave some background on the RAC competitive aquatic program, along with some additional information on their proposal. The following was discussed:

Overview of Presentation:

- RAC is one of the tenants at the Barlow Mountain Pool (BMP).
- RAC membership views current condition of BMP in need of much improvement and has investigated various alternatives for improvement



- RAC priorities for improvement (based on August 2018 membership survey): (1) improved locker rooms, (2) “more” water for training, (3) safe environment (no broken tiles in pool / new pool deck, (4) dedicated space for dryland training and (5) alleviate existing health concern for our children (improved air and water quality).

- RAC would like to formally launch initiative in early 2019.

RAC is seeking a formal approval from the Commission to move forward with a proposal to do improvements on the Barlow Mountain Pool facility. After much discussion, Mr. Kearns mentioned that the Commission’s policy is to listen to a presentation and make a formal vote at their next meeting, (in case there are any questions from the Commissioners that may come up later). Mr. Kearns wanted to be clear that a large improvement incur additional operating costs and these additions would be passed on to the users of the Barlow Mountain Pool. The Commission also wanted to be sure that RAC was aware of our non-compete guidelines with operating similar programs to the Rec Center at the Barlow Pool.

Mr. Kearns asked for a sense of how the Commission feels on the proposal for improvements to the Barlow Mountain Pool. The Commission had some positive feedback on the proposal, but will follow up with a vote that their January meeting.

The Commission thanked RAC for their presentation and their support of the Town facility. The Commission discussed some items such as construction costs, operating costs, usage and programming at the Barlow Pool.

Financial Status – Eileen Cipolla:

Ms. Cipolla stated that the Commission would be voting on the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Capital Budget later in the evening.

Ms. Cipolla reported that membership numbers are up and overall we are at budget.

Chairperson’s Report – Phil Kearns:

Mr. Kearns stated that his report would be covered under the Budget & Policy Sub-Committee.

Director’s Report- Dennis DiPinto

Building/Grounds Updates

- Mr. DiPinto reported that the renovation is completed and that there may be just a few small items remaining. He mentioned that the Building Committee was very satisfied with the results of this project.
- Working with the Wellness staff on a new rowing program.
- Working to complete the drone footage of the Rec Center classes for advertising.

Financial

- Working with staff on the completion of the capital budget.



RIDGEFIELD PARKS & RECREATION

-Working with Friends on two local grants – Thrift Shoppe and the Lewis Fund.

Received \$4,500 from the Sara Tod Foundation

Community

- Met with Conservation Commission regarding working together.
- Working with Scotland PTA on after school programs.
- Met with sub-committee and men's softball representatives.
- Met with representatives as well from basketball (RBA).

Staffing-Programs

- Held staff training session with Jamie Telegadis – well received by staff. Follow up in a few months.
- Recognized the aquatics staff with pizza lunch.
- Attended the CRPA winter conference – attended several informational sessions
- Working on staff reviews.
- Working with IT and staff on new E Trak software.
- Working on opening and closure procedure for upcoming winter weather with new indoor maintenance supervisor.

Marketing & Programs- Kathy Fassman

Ms. Fassman summarized for the Commission some challenges she is having with the new program development for the proposed after school program in the Ridgefield schools. In addition, she summarized some of the new programs she is working on. The Commission suggested promoting the new rowing program on the department's plasma screen and through the Press to give this program some additional exposure.

Assistant Director-Parks – Mr. Schneider:

No report available at this time.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Annual Goals & Marketing Plans- Evie Bottali:

- Ms. Bottali reported that November memberships and revenue exceeded last year's results, continuing the revenue/membership growth reported in October.

Buildings & Grounds – David Thaxter:

- Mr. Thaxter mentioned that the sub-committee had met to talk about men's softball and the issue is still on the table.

Aquatics & Programs –David Thaxter:

- Mr. Thaxter mentioned that the sub-committee would meet before the January 9 Commission meeting to review the RAC proposal.

Budget & Policy-Phil Kearns:



-Mr. Kearns summarized for the Commission the proposed 2019-2020 Parks and Recreation Capital Budget as presented by the Budget Sub-Committee.

After a lengthy discussion, and a thorough review of the proposed budget, Ms. Carey made the following motion:

"Move to accept the amended 2019-2020 Parks and Recreation Capital Budget request as proposed by the Budget & Policy Sub-Committee."

Motion seconded by David Thaxter and unanimously passed.

Pickleball

Mr. Kearns gave a summary of the recent meeting he attended with representatives from the Pickleball community as well as the Budget & Policy sub-committee.

After a discussion regarding Pickleball fees, Mr. Shofi made the following motion:

"Move to approve the revised pricing policy for Pickleball as proposed by the Budget & Policy sub-committee to be implemented effective as proposed, on January 1, 2019."

Mr. Kearns will inform the Pickleball representatives of the revised pricing policy.

Special Services Issues & Community Out Reach – Barbara Dobbin:

There was a brief discussion regarding the request for the Silver Sneakers program in Parks & Recreation. Ms. Dobbin will follow up on this request.

Strategic Plan – Gina Carey

No current issues at this time.

Old Business-Conservation Commission

The Commission again decided to table the Conservation Commission's recent request until the January meeting when Mr. Schneider is available to give his input.

Approved Meeting Dates -2019

After a brief discussion and some questions, Ms. Dobbin motioned to:

"Approved the 2019 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting dates as amended."

Motioned seconded by David Thaxter and passed unanimously passed.

New Business-Ridgefield Aquatic Presentation

Covered above.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made at 10:05 pm, by Barbara Dobbin and seconded by Dave Thaxter.

Minutes Approved:

Evie Bottali, Secretary



Motions from the
Parks and Recreation Commission Special Meeting

December 11, 2018

Budget & Policy-Phil Kearns:

- After a discussion on the proposed budget, Ms. Carey made the following motion:
“Move to accept the amended 2019-2020 Parks and Recreation Capital Budget request as proposed by the Budget & Policy sub-committee.”

Motion seconded by David Thaxter and unanimously passed.

- After a discussion regarding Pickleball fees, Mr. Shofi made the following motion:
“Move to approve the revised pricing policy for Pickleball as proposed by the Budget & Policy sub-committee to be implemented effective as proposed, on January 1, 2019.”

Motion seconded by Ms. Dobbin and unanimously passed.

Old Business – Phil Kearns – 2019 Meeting Dates

- After a brief discussion and some questions, Ms. Dobbin motioned to:
“Approved the 2019 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting dates as amended.”

Motioned seconded by David Thaxter and passed unanimously passed.

December 12, 2018