



UNAPPROVED
Minutes of the
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

February 18, 2020

In Attendance:

Phil Kearns, Chair (via phone)
Gina Carey
Barbara Dobbin, Vice Chair
Evie Bottali, Secretary
David Shofi

Dennis DiPinto, Director
Kathy Fassman, Marketing
Eileen Cipolla, Accountant
Bobby Schneider, Asst. Dir-Parks

These minutes are a general summary of the meeting and are not intended to be a verbatim transcription.

Meeting called to order by Vice Chair at 6:30 p.m.

Recognition of Guests:

The Commission introduced and welcomed Ms. Meredith Mulhearn.

Approval of Agenda

Ms. Dobbin asked that the guest speaker, under "New Business" be moved up on the agenda to then be followed by the reports from the Director, Accounting, Marketing & Programs and Committee reports. The amended agenda was approved.

New Business – Plant Blindness

Meredith Mulhearn gave a presentation on a proposal to selectively paint/color leaves on plants, to bring awareness to "Plant Blindness." The Commission asked Ms. Mulhearn to provide them with a bit more details on things such as site, materials and overall plans.

The Commission thanked Ms. Mulhearn for her presentation.

Minutes:

There were no changes to the minutes.

Financial Status – Eileen Cipolla

Ms. Cipolla reported that revenue and expenses were on target. At the budget meeting, Ms. Cipolla reviewed sales for the last five years and noted that All-Inclusive Family memberships had grown influenced by the Family Recreation membership upgrades.



Director's Report – Dennis DiPinto

- Receiving bids for changing room updates
- Reviewing parking lot expansion – needs to have 50' setback from wetlands
- Roof – engineering almost finished
- In-house repair of Spray Bay flooring scheduled for May
- Budget presentation to Board of Selectmen went well
- Staff attended funeral for Gene Healy, long time Parks & Recreation supporter, and Chair of Friends of Parks & Recreation

Marketing and Programs – Kathy Fassman

Ms. Fassman reported that the annual Egg Scramble would have two “hunts” this year; one for children up to grade 2 and a second “flashlight” egg hunt for kids in grades 3-5. The marketing intern is reviewing our Martin Park Beach memberships from 2019 for projecting this season’s memberships. The postcard for early bird beach and camp signups has been mailed to residents. The spring/summer catalog will be delivered to residents by the end of February. We are seeing that our fitness classes continue to be very popular.

Building and Grounds – (Dennis DiPinto for David Thaxter)

Fall cleanup is completed
Crews are working on repairing machines for upcoming season
Fair weather is allowing extended cleanup opportunities
Discussion regarding field user fee - looking at implementing a possible increase in July 2020

Aquatics & Programs - (Dennis DiPinto for David Thaxter)

Wobble Wipeout will not to be set up at Martin Park this summer
Looking at an automatic check in process for Martin Park to be ready by Memorial Day
Limiting hours at Martin Park Beach during the early part of the season to 2-6 pm Monday through Friday
No feedback yet from Ridgefield Aquatic Club regarding pool plans

Special Services - Barbara Dobbin

Ms. Dobbin suggested the need to survey environment for ADA ramp needs.

Strategic Plan – Gina Carey

Discussing new ideas with Director regarding marketing.
Setting future goals with Director for Department.

Old Business: None

With no further business, a motion to adjourn at 7:53pm was made by Gina Carey, seconded by Barbara Dobbin and unanimously passed.

Minutes Approved: _____

Evie Bottali

Evie Bottali, Secretary

PLANT BLINDNESS

A COMMUNITY ART PROJECT
INSPIRING RECONNECTION WITH NATURE
& PLANT CONSERVATION

SHHHHHH.... IT'S A SECRET

NO ONE CAN KNOW THE ARTIST'S IDENTITY. THE PROJECT WILL BE REVEALED IN STAGES TO CREATE BUZZ AND CONVERSATION.

GOALS:

- Bring awareness to the phenomenon of plant blindness
- Encourage community members to reconnect with plants, an essential step to foster conservation
- Bring positive exposure to the town of Ridgefield
- Enhance appreciation of Ridgefield's GREEN spaces
- Promote the arts and culture in the Ridgefield community
- Prevent Nature Deficit Disorder, the harm caused to humans by being alienated from nature

PLANT BLINDNESS:

THE INABILITY TO SEE OR NOTICE THE PLANTS IN ONE'S OWN ENVIRONMENT.

A GLIMPSE INTO...

The Grand Plan(t):

The artist will hand select plants around the community and strategically paint portions of the plant in vivid colors to attract the attention of the community. Special care will be taken to protect the health of the chosen plants. Materials will be semi-permanent and are intended to fade over time.