



Commission Meeting Minutes
APPROVED
February 16, 2021
Meeting held via Zoom

IN ATTENDANCE:

Phil Kearns, Chair	Dennis DiPinto, Director
Kim Hulber	Kathy Fassman, Marketing
Barbara Dobbin, Vice Chair	Eileen Cipolla, Accountant
Evie Bottali, Secretary	Amy Platt, Admin Office Manager
David Shofi	
Pete Nichols	
Gina Carey	

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 6:36 pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Gina Carey made a motion to amend the agenda and move the Guest Eagle Scout presentation to the top of the agenda and approve agenda. Seconded by Pete Nichols. Motion carried 7-0.

RECOGNITION AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Christian Thompson, Troop 76 Life Scout (Eagle Scout candidate) – shared his project proposal for a new woodshed at Sturges Park.

Motion made by Barbara Dobbin to approve project pending final sign-off of materials and construction by Bob Schneider. Seconded by Gina Carey. Motion carried 7-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dave Shofi requested a change to the January meeting minutes for Building and Grounds: Annual Fields Meeting. Meeting will take place in February versus January.

Motion made by Gina Carey and seconded by Barbara Dobbin to approve the amended minutes of the January meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

FINANCIAL UPDATE – Eileen Cipolla provided the monthly financial report.

BUSINESS UPDATES

Chairperson's Report – Phil Kearns

- Phil Kearns reviewed the Fiscal Year 2022 Capital/Operating Budget with the Board of Selectmen and is awaiting approval.



Director's Report – Dennis DiPinto

- Rooftop HVAC installation is scheduled to take place in mid-August; Mr. DiPinto working with ESC to determine plan to store or take delivery of the unit prior to install.
- Reviewing options for new recreation software; Will review with subcommittees prior to making a final decision
- Additional parking study underway to expand capacity
- Friends has a couple of new members; Accounting team will help manage finances for 501c3
- Tiger Hollow/Scotts Ridge field replacement
- Continue to review and adhere to COVID guidelines, and respond to potential exposures
- Working with Female Scouts to host their moving up ceremony.
- Pickleball fundraising continues for new courts at Martin Park Beach.
- We've received positive feedback on our new expanded family pool time and gym time at Rec Center.
- Welcomed Amy as new Admin Office Manager

Marketing/Programs – Kathy Fassman

- Developing a new campaign to "Rediscover the Recreation Center" will be the focus of the Spring/Summer program booklet
- Outdoor Spring Fling Event – Saturday, May 15th
- Adding more outdoor activities for Spring/Summer programming – adult tennis, volleyball, horseback riding, mountain biking
- Adventure Day Camp and specialty camps will be available this summer
- NEW! Outdoor Ninja Warriors

Assistant Director-Park – Bob Schneider

- Winter Parks operations are going well despite being short staffed.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Marketing, Promotion and Membership – Evie Bottali

- Nothing new to report per Kathy Fassman.

Aquatics & Programs – Barbara Dobbin

- Programs are going well; Nothing new to report.

Budget & Policy – Phil Kearns

- Presented annual budget to the Board of Selectmen and awaiting their approval.

Buildings & Grounds – David Shofi

- Reviewing the BOE fields agreement which is up for renewal mid-year.
- Working with Bob Schneider on the fall field requests.

Special Services, Community Outreach and Customer Experience – Kim Hulber

- Reviewed current ADA programs and potential enhancements for the year ahead



Strategic Planning and Annual Goals – Gina Carey

- Nothing new to report.

Old Business – Phil Kearns/Barbara Dobbins

- Previous request from the Ridgefield Conservation Commission to designate portion of the Rec Center was voted down. As a compromise, Parks & Rec discussed the potential of granting a conservation easement for a portion of existing campus wetlands property.
- Some discussion was had on the need for thoughtful review of any property to be considered. Mr. Kearns and Mr. DiPinto to review Conservation Commission proposal and have a follow-up meeting/site walk once Mr. Shofi has the opportunity to meet with Ridgefield Land Use Director.

New Business

- Eagle Scout presentation: Christian Thompson
- Four new pickleball courts are planned for Martin Park. The pickleball community is fundraising and construction is planned for late spring 2021.

With no further business, Gina Carey moved and Pete Nichols seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 pm. Motion carried 7-0.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 6:30 PM.

Minutes Approved

Evie Bottali, Commission Secretary