



Commission Meeting Minutes January 2021

Meeting Date: January 12, 2021
Location: Meeting Held Virtually

IN ATTENDANCE:

Phil Kearns, Chair	Dennis DiPinto, Director
Kim Hulber	Kathy Fassman, Marketing
Barbara Dobbin, Vice Chair	Eileen Cipolla, Accountant
Evie Bottali, Secretary	Bob Schneider, Asst. Director
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 6:35 p.m.

RECOGNITION/INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

No guests to recognize.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

B. Dobbin motioned and Gina Carey seconded the motion to amend the agenda to move the budget presentation. The motion carried 7-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Gina Carey moved and David Shofi seconded to approve the minutes of the December meeting. The motion carried 7-0.

FINANCIAL UPDATE – Eileen Cipolla

Ms. Cipolla stated that the department is closely monitoring revenue and expenses due to the continued effects of the COVID 19 pandemic. Ms. Cipolla stated that she has worked with the budget sub-committee on the new projections.

BUSINESS UPDATE

Chairperson – Phil Kearns

Last month, Mr. Kearns reported that he and Mr. DiPinto had met with the Conservation Commission regarding the CC's goal of obtaining additional open space. Mr. Kearns reported that the Conservation commission's request would decrease the Rec Center's lot size by 1/3 of its acreage. After discussion, David Shofi motioned and Pete Nichols seconded the motion to reject their request. The motion was approved 7-0.



Mr. Kearns reviewed the Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget. He reported that increases in the operating budget were zero for all areas with the exception of salaries (that are mandated). Gina Cary motioned to approve the budget and Dave Shofi seconded the motion. The Commission voted to pass the FY 2022 Budget as presented.

Director's Report – Dennis DiPinto

Building/Grounds

In process of installing pavilion rooftop
Pickleball member fund raising
\$3K grant from Sarah Todd foundation
Getting cost estimate for replacement of Tiger Hollow track carpet

Financial

Working with Accountant and Commission on operating/capital budgets
Reviewing programs
Rowella Accountants will do Friends of Parks & Rec's filings

Community:

Working with Town on COVID testing at Yanity
Pickleball has new leadership, outlined proposed PB courts at Martin Park Beach lot
Worked with community on Tiger Hollow turf project

Staffing-Programs:

Working with HR to fill Adm. Asst. position

Marketing/Programs – Kathy Fassman

Ms. Fassman reported that due to the virus she is programming outside programs as much as possible for the upcoming spring and summer. Her survey of members showed they want more outdoor activities such as bike riding and swim lessons at MPB. Summer camp will now offer one week sessions since 3 or 4 weeks may be too big of a commitment in this Covid environment.

Assistant Director-Parks- Bob Schneider

Mr. Schneider reported that with the good weather, the crews were busy doing brush & tree cutting. Fallen trees were removed from Richardson Park and Martin Park. Reliable Construction won the bid on the wall repair in Martin Park.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Marketing, Promotion and Membership – Evie Bottali

Nothing to report at this time... covered by Kathy Fassman

Aquatics & Programs – Barbara Dobbin

Nothing to report at this time... covered by Kathy Fassman



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, Secretary

Respectfully submitted,

Evie Bottali, Parks & Recreation Commission Secretary
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