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UNAPPROVED

Minutes of the
Parks and Recreation Commission
Meeting

July 17, 2018

In Attendance:

Phil Kearns, Chairman
Evie Bottali
Gina Carey
Barbara Dobbin
David Shofi

Dennis DiPinto, Director
Robin Matthews, Asst. Director-Rec
Eileen Cipolla, Acct.
Jane Byrnes, Comm. Secty

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

Meeting called to order by Chairman at 7:30 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:

Mr. Mark and Mrs. Nancy Olney, Ridgefield CT were introduced to the Commission.

New Business:

Mr. Kearns welcomed the Olneys and asked if they had anything they would like to bring to the Commission. Mr. Olney mentioned that they were Recreation Center members and very engaged in the community and they know some positive things have been happening and they wanted "to see what goes on behind the curtains." Ms. Olney stated that they were not prepared to speak, but may come back in the future with some proposals for future ideas.

Minutes:

The minutes were approved as presented.

Financial Status – Eileen Cipolla:

Ms. Cipolla reported that the budget numbers for summer camp, Skate Park and memberships for July are on target. Ms. Cipolla reported that the Department had some savings by freezing of expenses to help cover the shortfalls.

Chairman's Report – Phil Kearns:

Nothing to report at this time.

Director's Report- Dennis DiPinto

The Director has had the final meetings with staff on the completion of their goals and he reports that everyone did a nice job. The Director will begin to review them this month.

The Director reported that this past Monday the general women's locker room reopened and the same day the women's Wellness closed. Mr. DiPinto reported that on or about August 3, we expect the same schedule to happen with the men's



general and wellness locker rooms. The wrap up of Phase I and Phase II is still slated for the end of September, which is approximately five weeks behind schedule. Demolition will begin today in the women's Wellness. The Director reported that in general, the project is running smoothly and the updated communications have been sent to staff and the public. Mr. Kearns asked if we had any feedback on the women's general locker room. Mr. DiPinto said yes, but it was too early to tell if they were just configuration issues of hooks and benches or actual challenges. Mr. DiPinto mentioned that a few of the members had concerns regarding the non-slip tile on the floor.

Mr. DiPinto reported that he had attended a Town revenue meeting and that there were no real concerns to report.

The Director has been meeting with the recreation staff on new program development and future outreach activities.

The Director reported that he had received one complaint from the neighbor regarding the loud music coming from the CHIRP concerns at Ballard Park. Mr. DiPinto mentioned that he has attended most of the concerts and has had the decibel levels tested at every concert to be sure the sound is kept within the guidelines. He reiterated that he had not seen the level go above 70 decibels.

SPIF (Senior Positive Initiative Forum) is looking to do an event in September for the seniors at Martin Park Beach.

Mr. DiPinto reported that the Maintenance Supervisor, Peter Keeler would be retiring at the end of the month. The plans have not been made regarding the future of the position.

The Governor Park project has stalled a little bit, and Mr. DiPinto is working to get the contractor to complete his part of the Press Box.

The Director met with the intern business manager of the Board of Education to discuss the possibly collaborating with their afterschool program. A follow up meeting is scheduled later this week to see if this is something we can do.

Mr. Kearns asked if the repairs to the tennis and basketball courts at Governor Park were done. There were some questions posted on Ridgefield Facebook regarding the courts. Mr. DiPinto stated that the safety issues had been done; but unfortunately, the tennis courts are in dire need of total refinishing which are very costly.

Assistant Director-Recreation- Robin Matthews:

- Ms. Matthews reported that the staff had attended an ADA training for camps.
- First week of day camp, the enrollment was low, due to the July 4th holiday; however, the following weeks are filled and the building is busy.
- Martin Park Beach is operating well; however, we are short on lifeguards. The beach vendor has been working out well.
- The fall brochure should be sent out by August 1.
- Ms. Matthews is working on some special events; including the Summerfest (a Chamber of Commerce) event. We will provide a bounce house, games, give-a-ways, etc.
- The Spray Bay has also been very busy and drop in revenue is up a little.
- Some new programs will be coming this fall and some adult enrichment and special events are scheduled for the winter.



Assistant Director-Parks – Mr. DiPinto reported in Mr. Schneider's absence:

- The July 4 fireworks went well, set-up and clean up were done by our outdoor crews.
- Crews were working on the Ballard Park stage repairs and enhancements.
- Mr. Schneider is working with Town Hall on the truck bids.
- The repairs have been partially completed on the Rec Center playground surface, and the vendor will be back to install the remaining surfacing.
- Asst. Director-Parks is working with Charlie Fisher and the Connecticut DOT to finish the new parking area on route 35. There was a discussion regarding whether we need approval to park in this area, and if we could have it designated for trail parking. We are still waiting on the 23 additional spots, which have been approved by the First Selectman.

Mr. Kearns reported that a donation had been made for the staining of the Sturges Park Cabin, and the Cabin looks great. Ms. Dobbin asked about the usage. Mr. Kearns reported that not as much as expected; church groups, boy scouts and girl scouts mostly.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Buildings & Grounds – David Thaxter-David Shofi

Nothing to report at this time.

Aquatics & Programs –David Thaxter (Robin Matthews):

Ms. Matthews reported that the beach has been busy with the great summer weather. There was some vandalism to the beach and lifeguard stands this past weekend. The outdoor crews are busy doing the repairs. The Zoom Floom is working well and the water mat is very popular. Several birthday parties have been scheduled at the beach, along with a few school parties.

Annual Goals & Marketing Plans- Evie Bottali:

No report at this time.

Budget & Policy-Phil Kearns:

The sub-committee will be meeting on Tuesday to discuss the Silver Sneakers program. Budget covered above.

Special Services Issues & Community Out Reach – Barbara Dobbin:

Ms. Dobbin reported that the staff is taking a short break to work on increasing camp and programing enrollments, we will have a report at the September meeting.

Strategic Plan – Gina Carey

Ms. Carey reported that she has met with the Director several times to finalize the Director's goals. Review of staff goals has been postponed as the staff has been busy with summer camp and development of programs.

Old Business:

No old business.

New Business:

Covered above.

A motion to adjourn was made by Gina Carey and seconded by Barbara Dobbin.

Meeting adjourned 8:08pm.

Minutes Approved: _____

Evie Bottali, Secretary