



Town of Ridgefield Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 6:30 pm
Meeting held via Zoom
APPROVED

PRESENT: P. Kearns, B. Dobbin, D. Shofi, E. Bottali, P. Nichols, D. DiPinto, B. Schneider, M. Knox, E. Cipolla, A. Platt

These minutes are a general summary of the meeting and are not intended to be a verbatim transcription. A recording of the meeting will be available for 45 days post: <https://www.ridgefieldparksandrec.org/about-parks-recreation/commission>

Meeting called to order by Chair at 6:35 pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Pete Nichols made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Barbara Dobbin. Motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Pete Nichols to approve the February minutes. Seconded by David Shofi with the following modifications: Under Buildings & Ground Committee report, add the names of all meeting attendees who met with The Ridgefield Playhouse. Motion carried 4-0.

BUSINESS UPDATES

Chairperson's Report – Phil Kearns

Nothing new to report outside of committee reports.

Director's Report – Dennis DiPinto

- Attended meetings for the 2nd round BOS Budget Reviews, Monthly Revenue & Budget & Policy Committee.
- Updates on Projects:
 1. Met with Classic Turf, Jake Muller & Kevin Redmond regarding the Governor Park tennis court replacement project. The balance of the funding is in FY2022-23 Capital Plan. Project scheduled to begin on or around July 1st. Footprint has been reviewed by Planning & Zoning Director.
 2. Rec Center Gymnasium Floor replacement begins on Monday, 3/27 and will be completed on April 14.
 3. Barlow Mountain Pool HVAC: Town will fund from left over Capital. Drawings have been submitted and a bid accepted by the Town. Scheduled to be completed by September 1st.
 4. Continue to meet with the RAC Steering Committee regarding Barlow Mountain Pool improvement project. Fundraising is underway by RAC. Timing is still tentative.
 5. Yanity Gym window replacement is complete.
- Jim Rafferty will be retiring from the Rec Center at the end of April; We will announce plans for his replacement in the coming weeks.
- P&R Leadership staff meetings continue every month with good participation.
- Also completed staff reviews and goal setting



- Met with members of Inland Wetlands to discuss possible site for additional Pickleball courts.

Financial Update – Eileen Cipolla

Ms. Cipolla provided the monthly financial report. Revenue and expenses are on-target.

Assistant Director of Parks' Report – Bob Schneider

- Athletic fields are ready for play.
- Fields scheduling meeting took place in February.
- A number of dead trees were cut down along the Rec Center walking trail.
- The alarm inside Sturges Cabin was updated.
- Parks crew has started spring clean-up in Ballard Park in preparation for the annual Egg Scramble
- Some generator issues at the Rec Center are being addressed.

Assistant Director of Program Operations' Report – Mary Knox

- Summer Camp registrations are going very well. Some groups are full already.
- Martin Park Beach memberships will go on sale April 1st.
- 20th Birthday Celebration for the Rec Center will be April 23rd. Family and Adult activities are planned.
- Continue to recruit summer staff

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Marketing & Promotions – Evie Bottali

Programs and camp registrations are doing well.

Membership – Kim Hulber (absent)

Nothing new to report.

Aquatic & Programs – Barbara Dobbin

Swim registration for spring are underway and response has been good.

Budget & Policy – Phil Kearns

On March 30th P&R will go before the BOF Budget Deliberations.

Buildings & Grounds – David Shofi

Meeting has been scheduled with representatives from the Conservation Commission and the Tree Warden on April 19th to discuss concerns regarding the Town's native plant policy.

Special Services & Community Outreach – Pete Nichols

Pete is reviewing the Town's most recent accessibility report to see if any new projects might come out of it.

With no further business, David Shofi moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 pm. Barbara Dobbin seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

REMINDER: Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 18th at 6:30 pm via Zoom.