



Town of Ridgefield Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 6:30 pm
Meeting held via Zoom
APPROVED

PRESENT: P. Kearns, B. Dobbin, D. Shofi, E. Bottali, K. Hulber, 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 6:33 pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

David Shofi made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Pete Nichols. Discussed amending the agenda to move New Business before the Chairman's report. David Shofi motioned to approve and Pete Nichols seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

Recognition of Guest: Jay Lubin of the Boy Scouts of America Yankee Council

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by David Shofi to approve the April minutes. Seconded by Pete Nichols. 1 abstained. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Jay Lubin from the Boy Scouts shared a proposal for approximately 200 youth day campers to access Martin Park for swimming/swim lessons on weekdays during the month of July 2023.

After a discussion, David Shofi moved to put the proposal to a vote. Seconded by Barbara Dobbin. Motion carried and was put to a verbal vote. Commission voted 6-0 against approving the proposal.

Mr. Kearns agreed to send a written response to Mr. Lubin with the Commissions decision, including some alternate locations for the Boy Scouts to consider.

BUSINESS UPDATES

Chairperson's Report – Phil Kearns

Nothing new to report outside of committee reports.

**Director's Report – Dennis DiPinto**

- Attended Monthly Revenue & Budget & Policy Committee meetings.
- Updates on Projects:
 - Governor Park Court Replacement project – Original plan was to break ground in June, but contractor cannot start work until early August. Continue to have discussions with the contractor to try and improve on this timing.
 - Barlow Mountain Pool HVAC replacement – September ship date on the new unit; P&R and contractors continue to discuss timeline to minimize the impact on high school swim team this fall.
 - RAC Steering Committee for Barlow Mountain Pool Improvement project – Fundraising continues and RAC will present to the BOS for additional funding from the Town in order to start the project as soon as possible.
 - Rec Center Gymnasium wall pads are scheduled to be installed starting May 22nd.
- Met with landscape architect to review drawings for potential Pickleball court layouts
- Attended CRPA Director's Summit
- Met with HR regarding union contract negotiations
- Attended the Town Fireworks meeting – Fireworks are planned for July 2nd

Financial Update – Eileen Cipolla

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

Assistant Director of Parks' Report – Bob Schneider

- Finished onboarding seasonal outdoor crew
- Received two of the four new trucks for Parks
- Weed control program is underway around town
- Getting Martin Park Beach ready for opening on May 27th
- Donated sculptures for the Rec Center grounds will be picked up as soon as there's a rainy day; Some pieces will receive a new coat of paint before the install.
- Preparing for the Memorial Day parade
- Ballard Park will be ready for CHIRP concerts this summer; Logistics meeting will take place next week.
- Testing the Spray Bay so it's ready for the summer
- Installing two new jet pumps on the hot tub at the Rec Center
- Rec Center generator repairs were completed.
- Non-native plant discussions took place with the Conservation Commission.

Assistant Director of Program Operations' Report – Mary Knox

- 3 new programs have been added – Calls of the Wild, Fish with CARE & baseball camp
- P&R will have a float in the Memorial Day parade
- Afterschool kids will be decorating bags for Meals on Wheels deliveries



- Camp staff hiring is nearly complete
- There's still a need for adult lifeguards
- Interviewing to fill all open Member Services positions

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Marketing & Promotions – Evie Bottali

Nothing new to report.

Membership – Kim Hulber

Nothing new to report.

Aquatic & Programs – Barbara Dobbin

Nothing new to report.

Budget & Policy – Phil Kearns

Nothing new to report.

Buildings & Grounds – Dennis DiPinto on behalf of David Shofi

Native Plant Policy: Had a successful second meeting with the representatives of the Conservation Commission discussing changes to the non-native plant policy. Mr. Shofi worked with one of the Conservation Commission representatives to finalize a draft document to be reviewed with the full Commission, and then shared with the BOS in a joint presentation.

Special Services & Community Outreach – Pete Nichols

Nothing new to report.

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

June Meeting Date: Discussion took place about moving the meeting date due to scheduling conflicts.

Barbara Dobbin made a motion to move the June Meeting from June 21st to June 27th. Seconded by Pete Nichols. Motion carried 5-0.

With no further business, Phil Kearns moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 pm. Barbara Dobbin seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

REMINDER: Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 27th at 6:30 pm via Zoom.