



Board of Parks & Recreation

Meeting Minutes

July 28, 2021

Please be advised that these minutes are in DRAFT form and will not become "Public Record" until the Board of Parks and Recreation formally approves them at their next regularly scheduled meeting planned for September 29, 2021.

Board Attendees: Nancy Chapin, Rick Loh, Frank DiVincenzo, Gary Dell'Abate, Scott Johnson and Mike Bocchino

Staff Attendees: Joe Siciliano, Sue Snyder, Blaize Levitan, Brian Kerzner and Lenore Caserta

Guest Attendees Molly Saleeby and Sue Baker

- I. Mr. Dell'Abate called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. at Binney Park.
- II. **A motion was made by Mr. DiVincenzo and seconded by Mr. Loh to approve the transcript from the June 30, 2021 virtual Zoom meeting. 5-0-0.**
- III. **Director's Report, Joseph Siciliano**
Mr. Siciliano reported that the upgrades to Binney Park have been well received by the community. The committee worked well with the park personnel.

This year there was one fireworks show at Greenwich Point. There were two scheduled, however one was rained out so the one show was a bit longer using the extra shells. The show was well attended.

There is currently a Request for Proposal, RFP out for a new Golf Professional at the Griff. Joe Felder is not going to renew his contract with the Town. Once the proposals are received, a selection committee will be formed. It would be appropriate for a board member to sit on the selection committee.

The Islander II is at the boat yard in Bridgeport awaiting repair. The issue has been waiting in line for the repairs. Trying to expedite the repairs and get the boat operational.

There are several large scale special events scheduled at Roger Sherman Baldwin Park for the fall which include Puttin' on the Dogs, Town Party, and Haggerty's Car Show. Working on all the details between staff and each organization keeping in mind where we are and where we might be with COVID.

The Wine and Food Fest will not be coming to Greenwich this year; however, the door is open for future events. These types of large scale events do not generate a lot of revenue for the Town. They're showcase events that draw in patrons for local businesses.

The discussion regarding fall field assignments is ongoing. Working with some restraints at Western Middle School field as it is not usable for some programs/clubs that the department supports. Greenwich High's field four is being excavated, hopefully completed by December.

Mr. Siciliano reported that he will meet next week with Gus Lindine and Ralph Mayo to discuss how to work together to allocate time for various fields.

The beaches, parks and marinas are being well utilized. Recreation programs are also well attended. Most fall programming is open for registration.

The Rink Committee has had several public meetings. There are concerns operating the facility with at 50-year-old slab that has exhausted its life expectancy. The committee has attended the Byram Neighborhood Association meeting to present about the project and answer questions. The committee will also attend the Byram Veterans Association meeting to address concerns about the memorial trees. The construction will not interfere with the trees.

The Rink Committee Chairman, Bill Drake has been working with Blaize on putting together an interactive webpage which will be the definitive source of information concerning the project. The webpage is www.greenwichct.gov/rink.

IV. Parks and Recreation Foundation, Scott Johnson

Mr. Johnson reported Sue Bodson did a great job on the Fireworks Picnic-in-a-Box fundraiser, it provided a lot of exposure for the Foundation.

Mr. Johnson stated he sent memo to Fred Camillo asking to clarify the gift policy as the various governing Town agencies differ in policy.

Mr. Siciliano added that a resolution regarding small gift acceptance can be added during the next budget cycle.

Mr. Johnson advised that Joe Kelly of the Board of Education contacted him and asked that he sit on the oversight committee for The Greenwich High School stadium project.

V. Dorothy Hamill Rink Sub-Committee, Rick Loh

Mr. Loh added that common sense ideas for a location for the rink on that same site have come up and are being worked through, while other options have confused people. The current facility is out of code. The architects proposed five different options for the facility on the current site, right now two of the five are being considered.

VI. Eastern Greenwich Civic Center, Scott Johnson

The architects are working on the interiors; the committee will meet once there is something to review.

VII. Binney Park Advisory Committee, Nancy Chapin

Ms. Chapin reported that Binney Park made headlines going under water. The landscape that was planted was designed to withstand flooding.

Pete Uhry is leading the charge to start a Friends of Binney Park group as the original advisory committee is phasing out. The committee wants to support the efforts of the Town. The idea is to model after the Friends of Greenwich Point as it seems to be a strong model.

Upon discussion, Mr. Siciliano advised that Risk Management is involved in the discussion regarding insurance for these groups; the outcome is yet to be determined.

Mr. Siciliano added that these groups may not want to deal with the administrative overhead that comes with being their own 501 (c) 3, but rather work through the existing Parks and Recreation Foundation.

VIII. Pinetum-Pomerance-Tuchman, Nancy Chapin

There was a collaborative effort to create new maps for Pinetum, Pomerance and Tuchman. The intent is to use QR codes that people can scan to see where they are in the park. There is interest in creating a Friends group for Pinetum. Volunteers are working closely with Greg Kramer and Darrin Wigglesworth. Mr. Siciliano added that the maps will be posted on the department website once the project goes public.

IX. Unfinished Business

Mr. Siciliano reported that Stantec was hired to prepare preliminary concepts for the Roger Sherman Baldwin Park Project. Cost estimates are around \$10M.

X. New Business

None

XI. Budget, Joe Siciliano

XII. Public Comment

None

XIII. Meeting adjourned 7:37 p.m.