Please be advised that these minutes are in DRAFT form and will not become “Public Record” until they are formally approved by the Board of Parks and Recreation at their next regularly scheduled meeting planned for March 30, 2016.

Board Attendees: Cathy Weisenburger, Hans Christian Thalheim, Scott Johnson, Gary Dell’Abate and Rick Loh

Staff Attendees: Joe Siciliano, Bruce Spaman, Jeff Freidag, and Tom Greco

Ex-Officio Attendees: None

Guest Attendees: Sue Baker

I. The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman, Cathy Weisenburger at 6:32 p.m. in the Parks and Recreation Conference Room.

II. A motion was made by Mr. Dell’Abate seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve the Board Minutes from the January 27, 2016 meeting. 5-0-0

III. Trees at Risk, Bruce Spaman

Mr. Spaman reported that the trees at risk program ran from 2011-14; this capital program was instituted to reduce risk as a result of defective trees. The expense of the program was $1.4M. 800 trees were identified as having defects and prioritized based on the level of risk. Mr. Spaman distributed and reviewed the attached handouts regarding the trees at risk program. (ATTACHMENT A)

Mr. Spaman reported that 460 trees were planted in the last year. The Department has a partnership with the Tree Conservancy; the Department supplies the trees and the Conservancy plants them. There is a stipulation with the union to allow outside contractors for planting.

Mr. Spaman reported that Eversource contracts with Lewis Tree Service, the Department provides them a permit to prune trees on Town property and supervises their work; this discourages them from the unfavorable practice of ground to sky clearance.

IV. Director’s Report

Mr. Siciliano reported that he and Mr. Spaman met with Martha Lyon for a preliminary review of the Binney Park planting plan. The Master Plan Committee will meet in the coming weeks. Mr. Siciliano further added that Martha also met with DPW to discuss the dredging plan so she may phase the plantings accordingly. The final planting plan is expected mid March. The execution of the plan is slated to begin early spring. There will be approximately $260,000 in the budget for the project by July 1st; this is a combination of remaining funds from the current budget, gifted funds, and the budget request for 2016-17. The Tree Conservancy will assist with the planting of trees.

Mr. Siciliano stated that he and members of the staff have met with the members of the EGCC Design Subcommittee of the Board of P&R to develop a mission statement of the Subcommittee and how they will move forward to include various Greenwich neighborhood associations and significant local users of the facility. Mr. Siciliano asked the Subcommittee members to provide feedback on the communication that will go out to the groups/organizations.
Mr. Siciliano advised that the BET Budget Committee entertained a brief meeting with Kirk Schubert from OGRCC, set up by Erf Porter to discuss including them in the planning for the EGCC. Mr. Siciliano further advised that he has copies of the document of their pitch that he can share with the Board. Mr. Lash referred Kirk Schubert to the Subcommittee of the Board of P&R.

Mr. Dell’Abate reported that the public needs to be educated on what can be done on the EGCC property; they are unaware of the land issues and limitations.

Mr. Siciliano added that the limited parking will control the number of square feet of the building.

Mr. Siciliano stated there is $200,000 appropriated in this year's budget for EGCC and there is a request in the 2016-17 budget for $520,000. The goal is to come up with a list of proposed amenities to include in the EGCC building which will be the basis for architectural firms to make their proposal to the Town. A selection committee will choose the architect; Mr. Monelli will negotiate the price of the specifications, drawings and the process through Planning and Zoning.

Mr. Spaman reported that he hired a soil scientist to conduct a study on the EGCC field. The study was conducted to a depth of 52 inches, they found tree stumps that were filled over; this contributes to the poor drainage.

Mr. Spaman noted Uconn built a pump that runs 24/7 to keep the water out of their stadium.

Mr. Siciliano advised that he and Mr. Spaman met with Ms. Weisenburger and Ms. Stenberg of the Friends of Greenwich Point (FOGP) to discuss some projects that they are interested in working on for the spring, which include:

- Providing grass seed, flower seed, and shrubs for the clambake area where the invasives were cleared by the Parks Department.

- Provide the planting of trees, trees to be supplied by either the Town or the Tree Conservancy in the .8 acres cleared by the Department of P&R near the old mansion site.

- Provide some TLC to the holly grove for the FOGP's 60th anniversary
  - Remove fence, add cedar fencing
  - Recreate entrance signs and banners to reflect the original design
  - Prune existing hollies and remove dead ones
  - Clean up debris throughout the holly grove and remove bush and trees that have infringed on the grove
  - Add more hollies

Mr. Siciliano recalled seeing the banners with the hollies listed. Ms. Weisenburger suggested the Historical Society may have it, she will look into it.

Mr. Siciliano suggested it would be nice to recreate the original layout.

Mr. Siciliano advised that the Greenwich Point concession contract was awarded to Antiqua Point, LLC, this proposal and presentation was far superior to the other bidder. Mr. Freidag advised that he and Mr. Whitcomb visited the new concessionaire's restaurant in Woodbridge, they had a good experience.

Mr. Johnson inquired who is responsible for the deck. Mr. Siciliano replied the concessionaire is responsible to maintain and clean it. There are concerns about the ability to cycle people through the day without people lingering for long periods of time. Mr. Siciliano stated he is in contact with the Conservancy about posting tasteful signs notifying people of a time limit on the deck. The deck is not just for the concession, people can bring their own food; no glass.

The Island Beach concession contract was also awarded.

Sub-Committee Reports - Beach Policy Sub-Committee
Mr. Siciliano stated that the Board of Selectmen passed the Provisional Beach Policy. The Department is
moving forward and making preparations to get the information out to the community. The Department has a Memo of Understanding, (MOU) with the Police Department, pending signature. The MOU clarifies the responsibilities of the police while on site.

Mr. Freidag added that the goal is to develop communication and establish a rapport with the on-site staff and the police.

Mr. Greco further added that the ordinances will be provided as a reminder to all single entry pass holders at time of purchase. Residents can purchase single entry passes online, once they prove their residency for the year. The ability to upload proof of residency is available online now. The vehicle passes will now have the vehicle plate number on them.

Sub-Committee Reports-Outdoor Skating Rink
Mr. Loh reported that there is no progress at this time

Sub-Committee Reports-Dog Season Extension
Mr. Dell’Abate stated that Fred Camillo and other members had met. He will provide future updates.

Sub-Committee Reports-Harbor Management
Ms. Baker stated that Mr. Johnson’s letter was accepted at the last Commission meeting, a copy went out with the minutes. Changes have not been accepted from some of the other agencies.

Ms. Baker indicated that the plan is vague when it comes to moorings. Mr. Freidag added that if mooring regulations are an addendum to the plan, then they can be changed by the Commission at any time. Some are of the feeling that these regulations should be in the plan rather than part of the plan (addendum). Geoff Steadman suggested if you put them in the plan, they are locked in and if the Commission wants to change them, they must go back to the DEEP and the state to obtain approval for the changes.

Sub-Committee Reports-Field Sub-Committee
Mr. Dell’Abate stated that the Committee meets regularly and the process is going well. Mr. Siciliano stated the noise has gone down significantly.

Mr. Siciliano reported that the BOE has budgeted $850,000 in the 2016-17 budget to replace the carpet at the high school stadium. The BOE’s Facilities Manager, Ron Matten has put together a committee to look at the types of carpet and infill on the market and make recommendations.

Mr. Siciliano advised that the Department is under scrutiny from various groups regarding infill materials for artificial turf fields. Mr. Siciliano stated that there are no funds for construction of turf fields at the middle schools. The earliest funds will be available is in the 2018-19 budget; it is uncertain what the industry will be doing then.

Mr. Siciliano informed that he was approached by a group that wants to discuss infill. Mr. Siciliano responded that there is nothing to talk about at this time as there is not a project on the table. This group is pushing the state legislature to pass a moratorium on crumb rubber. In addition, the group is also pushing for regulations on pesticide use among residents on their private property. The Town uses very few pesticides as we have an organic turf program.

Upon discussion, Mr. Johnson stated that the Board can help by finding out how various product options work for others—such as Brunswick, and Greenwich Academy.

VI. Unfinished Business - None

VII. New Business - None

VIII. Public Comments - None

IX. Meeting adjourned 7:43 pm.