



Board of Parks & Recreation

Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2019

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 May 29, 2019.

Board Attendees: Scott Johnson, Nancy Chapin, Rick Loh, Frank DiVincenzo, John Hartwell, Kirk Schubert and Meg Nolan

Staff Attendees: Joe Siciliano and Tom Greco

Guest Attendees: Dean Gamanos, Leslie Yager, Karen Fassuliotis, Jill Oberlander, Miriam Kreuzer and Alex LaPadula

- I. Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. in the Keegan Conference Room.
- II. A motion was made by Ms. Chapin and seconded by Mr. Loh to approve the Board Minutes from the February 27, 2019 and March 27, 2019 meetings. 7-0-0

III. **Director's Report, Joseph Siciliano**

Mr. Siciliano reported that the department is preparing for beach openings. Byram Park and Byram pool will open on Memorial Day. Registration for summer programming is going nicely. Many residents are utilizing the online services. The lobby Park Pass Office opens the week before Memorial Day. People are encouraged to use the online system.

This is the first golf season for the new Golf Course Manager, Steve Pyo. In addition, we hired a new Assistant Course Manager, Robert Morel. The two complement each other with their various backgrounds and levels of experience.

There will be a new Golf Course concessionaire, Steve Leininger. Mr. Leininger owns several restaurants out of state. The restaurant is called Backcountry BBQ. The restaurant is currently partially open, soon to open to full capacity. While the restaurant will serve BBQ there will also be a golfer friendly menu. Mr. Leininger obtained a full liquor license, this is a first. So far, there have been compliments from golfers. The current contract is for 2-years with (3) 1-year renewals.

The Byram concession is in its second year of the contract, Island Beach is operating under the extension years of the contract and the Greenwich Point concession has a new concessionaire who has been there before; Bill Bartlik (the family also has the Island Beach concession).

IV. Field Sub Committee, John Hartwell

Mr. Hartwell reported that the committee will be looking at different state websites to find information about artificial turf and health effects. The findings will be reviewed at the next meeting. The committee will also review a timeline to send out announcements to all users about what the committee is working on.

Mr. Johnson disclosed the results from the state house bill 7003, an act concerning a moratorium on the use of recycled rubber on municipal and public school playgrounds. The bill did not get out of committee, it either didn't pass or its been tabled.

V. Chairman's Report, Scott Johnson

Mr. Johnson stated there was a press release regarding the Western Middle School Field. There will be additional testing, seems like there might be a bigger problem than might have originally been considered.

Ms. Oberlander added that the fields are safe, the additional contaminants are located anywhere from 1-10 feet underneath. It's all subsurface, but it means that anything open is adequate to play on, but when looking to clean up the site, it will be a much more extensive review. They are taking an incremental approach to balance out the extent and cost of the cleanup and consult further with state and federal regulatory authorities to figure out what the appropriate remediation plan will be. They are hoping to schedule a meeting soon to figure out next steps and time table.

The fields remain closed. Mr. Siciliano advised that he is going to meet with the Board of Education facilities team to discuss the possibilities of materials for the site. Provisions need to be in the contract for materials that will establish grass during remediation and continue to grow.

Ms. Fassuliotis added that the Town will come up with a plan and discuss with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and they will come to a compromise.

Ms. Chapin inquired if during the process, there is a review of engineering the fields properly. Mr. Siciliano responded that it is all part of the remediation process.

Mr. Siciliano stated that it would be a part of the proposal for the funding. During the planning for Cos Cob Park, we were able to achieve a cost savings when the surfacing went down. Not as much contaminated material was removed. If less material needs to be removed, there can be a cost savings as it can be expensive with the excavation, trucking and disposal. The Board of Estimate and Taxation (BET) will need to review each proposal and evaluate the cost compared to the benefit.

Ms. Fassuliotis added that the ultimate decision will be up to the EPA and DEEP.

VI. Lia Fail Way, Frank DiVincenzo

Mr. DiVincenzo reported that the project is almost done. The sod is down and the benches are placed. The stairs will be redone. Mr. DiVincenzo added that he and Darrin Wigglesworth will meet onsite with the contractor to look at the stair options. Hopeful that the dedication can take place before the end of the school year. Mr. DiVincenzo inquired about the Lia Fail Foundation

account paying its share of administrative fees. Mr. Johnson stated the Foundation Board must vote on that.

VII. Binney Park Advisory Committee, Nancy Chapin

Ms. Chapin stated that the committee has been meeting regularly. The committee met at the park. Working on moving along the following:

Loop trail- Working with the neighbors that will be most impacted.

Restroom Building (Club House)-Park Foreman has presented a planting plan, fixing the patio, working on getting the drinking water operational.

Island- Vitti will bid on the hut, build up patio, work with Wetlands on the grasses, relocate some trees.

The committee is hopeful to get the plants in place soon. The committee has members with great talent.

Mr. Johnson inquired about the garbage complaints. Ms. Chapin stated she did a drive by and it is apparent that people are bring their personal garbage into the park to be disposed of.

Ms. Chapin indicated she is aware of other organizations that have removed all of the garbage cans. Ms. Chapin indicated that she would decrease the number of garbage cans, more will just add to the nuisance.

Mr. Siciliano acknowledged that as of now, the department only picks up trash weekdays. Once pickup is on a summer schedule, there will be weekend pickup as well. Ms. Chapin added that it is a bigger discussion, the receptacles are not very attractive and because they are open tops, people are more apt to bring their home garbage.

Ms. Chapin stated that the upstream debris from the shopping center is a problem. She will meet with the Department of Public Works (DPW) and discuss the maintenance program for cleaning the catch basin.

VIII. Dorothy Hamill Rink Sub-Committee, Rick Loh

Mr. Loh informed that the facility evaluation study contract is in the works. The committee is making progress. The BET still has the \$250k, hopefully the money will be approved. Mr. Siciliano added that there is \$30k that has been released and ready to use.

IX. Eastern Greenwich Civic Center, Scott Johnson

Mr. Johnson reported that members of the committee have met with districts 5,6 and 12. An invitation for a presentation has been sent to the RTM P&R committee. The idea is to have a Q&A and give them an opportunity to provide their opinion.

Mr. Johnson provided his perception that there were a lot of good questions, nothing came as a surprise and no one indicated that the committee is going down the wrong path. Seeking feedback on expanding footprint and including a 2nd floor. The committee must be realistic from the BET point of view. There were no objections to the basic path.

Mr. Schubert indicated that he doesn't think anyone at the district 5 meeting felt that having only one floor made any sense at all. There are two floors now. Not sure why that is contentious.

Mr. Johnson responded that the DPW perspective is that a two story building would require an elevator which is more expensive and has additional maintenance costs. This would need to be discussed with the architect.

Ms. Fassuliotis added that the committee did not preclude asking the architect to design a second floor, it needs to be cost out. The bottom line is that the building cannot have everything everyone wants. Approaching the phase where the architects will design some concepts that will be reviewed with the public, and acquire feedback and take it from there.

Ms. Fassuliotis further added that there was a discussion as to why the fields were not included in the plans, it has been decided that the fields will not be a part of the plan.

The other concern was if there would be enough parking if the footprint were expanded. This question cannot be answered yet; it will be answered by the architects.

Mr. Johnson advised that he, Mr. Dell'Abate and members of the BET received emails addressing some questions regarding the scope of the project and Municipal Improvement (MI). Mr. Johnson further advised that he contacted the two senders to discuss their questions concerning the scope of the project. One was a request for more meeting rooms, which he addressed.

Mr. Johnson informed that the committee is meeting next week to review the scoring process of the architects' proposals.

The current RFP that Alan Monelli put out is just to prequalify architects who meet the proper criteria. The RFP resulted in 13 responses. Mr. Monelli will meet with the committee and explain how to score each packet.

There will be a secondary RFP for the architects that will include the goals and objectives for the building and there will also be a scoring and selection process.

Mr. Johnson thanked Ms. Fassuliotis and Katie Deluca for their feedback.

X. Unfinished Business

None

XI. New Business

None

XII. Public Comment

Ms. Yager inquired when the golf course concession will be fully operational. Mr. Siciliano replied sometime in May.

Ms. Oberlander reported that there was an article in the New York Times about redesign of airports and transportation facilities given that the majority of travelers are 55+. They are designing the facilities differently for vision impaired, older people with more physical disabilities. Ms. Oberlander stated that the article gives a different perspective on the way you think about the design of parks for the aging population.

Ms. Chapin informed that because the Binney Park buildings are older, if the committee were to consider a redesign, the building would need to be brought up to current standards. The committee is proposing cosmetic changes to the facility. The committee has discussed the topic of the aging population.

Mr. Siciliano added that as new buildings are redesigned, they are brought up to compliance.

Ms. Fassuliotis stated that Greenwich is going for an age friendly designation. Something to think about going forward. Ms. Fassuliotis suggested speaking with the Commission on Aging.

Mr. Johnson advised that Mr. Dell'Abate met with the Commission on Aging to discuss the EGCC.

Mr. Siciliano added that there are regular meetings with the Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities.

Mr. Johnson asked Ms. Chapin if she would be the liaison to the Harbor Management Commission, Ms. Chapin agreed.

Mr. Johnson advised that he will continue to be the liaison for the Plan of Conservation and Development, and welcomed anyone who wants to join him.

XI. Meeting adjourned 8:01 p.m.