



Board of Parks & Recreation
Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2016

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 May 25, 2016.

Board Attendees: Nancy Caplan, Hans Christian Thalheim, Scott Johnson, Patrick Slyne, Ric Loh, and John Hartwell

Staff Attendees: Joe Siciliano, Susan Snyder, Jeff Freidag, Tom Greco, and Brian Kerzner

Ex-Officio Attendees: None

Guest Attendees: Leslie Yager, Dean Gamanos, Darrell DeMakes, Kirk Schubert, and Roseann Benedict

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. at the Greenwich Boat and Yacht Club.
- II. A motion was made by Mr. Slyne seconded by Mr. Loh to approve the Board Minutes from the March 30, 2016 meeting. 5-0-0
- III. **Marine, Boating and Beaches**
Mr. Freidag began his report by introducing Brian Kerzner as the new Operations Manager for Boats and Harbors.

Mr. Freidag reported the following for the Marine Division:

Beaches

- As a result of no major storms this off season, the beaches are in decent shape. There will be a need to move and grade existing sand as usual.
- We expect no issues with having everything ready for season opening
- All the swim buoys are ready to go in; they will be placed in late May and early June depending upon the facility opening date.
- The Beach Manager and Lifeguard Supervisor have been hired and they are finalizing the remaining seasonal positions. There are currently 27 Lifeguard applicants who've applied.
- Last summer visitor #s
480,000 Greenwich Point
56,000 at Byram
34,000 at Island Beach (Ferry Only)
3,300 at Great Captain Island (ferry only)
- With the completion of the Old Barn, there are no plans for a trailer at GP this year.
- Work expected on dredging under the bridges at GP
- Working with various groups to improve park conditions
- All the sidewalks at Island beach have been replaced
- With the completion of the men's room this spring, both restrooms on IB are refurbished
- The middle section of the Great Captain Island pier has been replaced.
- The Island Beach concessionaire is the same as last year, GP has a new one.

- Researching possible solutions that are DEEP permissible, for the area between the kayak storage and the parking lot to deal with run-off, tidal flooding, and road erosion.
- Working to develop permit and conception drawings for repairs to the causeway between Eagle Pond and the Cove, including guide-rails.

Ferries

- The seasonal staff has all been hired for the season. There will be no new Captains, but a few new crew members.
- Currently two vessels were hauled up to the Bloom shipyard and are back in the water undergoing engine work. Hulls were painted, zincs replaced and running gear inspected. USCG Dry dock inspection completed with some minor cropping and renewal. USCG safety inspections will be conducted later this year.
- This year was a repair only year, no upgrades or improvements were made, nor were any mandated by the USCG.
- ISLANDER II 1948 still waiting dry dock
 1. Non-USCG Dry-dock inspection year
- INDIAN HARBOR (1937) currently at the shipyard in water
 1. USCG will be mandating deck replacement commencing next inspection period.
- Continuing to monitor and work with the TSA/ USCG to ensure proper Homeland Security practices are observed.

Marinas

- A new Operations Manager was hired for the marinas. Brian Kerzner who was the Assistant Waterfront Manager at Riverside Yacht Club.
- Hired 2 new Seasonal Dockmasters this summer.
- 316 vessels stored winter this winter.
- Marinas opened on April 15 as scheduled
- Approximately 1400 use permits, 470 slips, 380 rack spaces, 100 launch permits (30 nonresident), and 52 dry sail vessels were issued
- One vessel was posted over the winter for past due payment, using the new DEEP website we were able to collect all the back owed storage fees. There are residents in collection, but the numbers are down as are the number of late fees charged.
- Cos Cob: DEEP has approved the application for the new launching ramp, but since bid drawings were not received until early January of 2015, it has been postponed until this fall. The marina is full, the North dock being a favorite of boaters. Two years ago it was empty. There are 58 vessels on the waitlist for slips, and increase of 4 over last year.
- Byram: Continued finger pier upgrade with 19 new finger slips built and installed. Old pilings were removed as was the old cable system. There is currently no waitlist for Byram. Some electrical upgrades have been made to the system at the landing float. Working on preliminary designs for a new launching ramp, and early stage pre permit work for a dredge of the marina.
- Greenwich Point: No major improvements this off season at the Point; working with users and the OGYC on improving operations. Preliminary work has begun on plans to replace the pier; working with user groups obtaining feedback.
- Grass Island: High school sailing has commenced and boats are starting to uncover from winter storage. Continued improvements to storage layout and condition of the facility during both the season and off season including lighting, electrical and water. The marina is currently full and there is a waiting list of 45 for the 20' fingers and waiting list of 92 for the larger slips at the location. This is an increase of 7 vessels.
- The current waiting list of 195 vessels strongly supports funding to explore possible plans to expand the Grass Island facility.
- Working to verify and permit Commercial Marine vendors and there are currently 20.

- Changing over all overhead lighting in the marinas to LED. This is more energy efficient, and will eliminate costly bulb changing in a boom truck.

IV. Sub-Committee Reports-Harbor Management

Mr. Freidag reported that Frank Mazza has resigned as Chairman of the Harbor Management Commission; Bruce Angiolillo has taken over as Chairman. The last meeting went well. The draft report is with the state, but no word back as of yet. The Mianus River dredge project is going forward in October barring the EPA closing the western and central dump sites.

V. Director's Report

Mr. Siciliano reported that the Single Entry Park Passes will be required for anyone who does not have a valid annual Park Pass beginning May 2. It has been a long haul with DMV to obtain an accurate vehicle tax list for Greenwich. Vehicle stickers will be mailed in the next couple of weeks. Last year's stickers will be acceptable through May 28.

Mr. Siciliano stated that special event planning for the season is underway; the department supports over 100 special events throughout the season.

Mr. Siciliano advised that the department is working with the Department of Public Works to complete the remediation completed at the New Lebanon School Field (William St.). The goal is to get this completed as soon as possible and have it available for the fall.

Mr. Siciliano added that remediation at the Byram Park/pool Rosenwald property is completed. \$8M was released at the Board of Estimate and Taxation, (BET) for the pool project. There were three bidders on the project; one has been selected. The anticipated start of pool construction is June 1. Mr. Siciliano stated he's met with the Junior League; they have taken on the fundraising challenge of \$2.5M as a reimbursement to the Town to cover a portion of the construction for the pool. The Junior League has a good plan; they've been successful in securing one pledge so far.

Mr. Siciliano affirmed that the Park Operations Manager position has been filled with Darrin Wigglesworth. Darrin has been with the department for over 20 years, he has transitioned over to the Parks Division from the Tree Division where he served as Tree Foreman. Darrin is making his best effort and is fully engaged.

Mr. Siciliano reiterated that the department has templates of the three middle school field layouts for potential artificial turf. It is essential that the department piece together a capital budget schedule to be presented to the BET in the fall. Mr. Siciliano stated he's been in contact with Laura Erickson from the Board of Education, (BOE) and has a commitment to discuss further, once school is out.

Mr. Siciliano reported that the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center Design Subcommittee met with several community groups last month. Mr. Siciliano advised that he asked Mr. Monelli to create some floor plans from the list of design features that were generated at the meeting. The intent is to have Mr. Monelli make a presentation to the group on the floor plans. Mr. Siciliano would like to establish a committee of 5-7 people to help with the selection of an Architect/Engineer firm to complete the drawings and see the project through completion. Mr. Siciliano suggested hiring a professional estimator to obtain a price in order to go for budgetary dollars. This method worked well during the Bendheim Western Greenwich Civic Center project.

The following motion was made by Mr. Johnson seconded by Mr. Thalheim:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that, with respect to current funding decisions and requests relating to studies and preliminary work, such as architectural drawings for a proposed renovation or new construction of the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center, the Board of Parks and Recreation hereby requests and supports the approval of funding in the amount of \$520,000 therefor on an immediate basis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, as a result of review and discussion, including report by the Board of Parks and Recreation Subcommittee studying this matter, and a public hearing relating thereto, the Board finds, and is of the opinion that, there is significant community support for these studies and this work and that to delay these studies could exacerbate the existing and recognized deterioration and costly maintenance expenditures of this facility.
6-0-0

Mr. Siciliano pointed out that many of the design features recommended at the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center, (EGCC) meeting pair up with the internal design features generated by the department.

Mr. Siciliano added that there was a discussion about a field house. Mr. Siciliano further added that there may be ways to support this project that would benefit all.

Mr. Johnson stated that he felt that the EGCC meeting went well; everyone had an opportunity to see the diverse interests and gain a feel for what the most popular interests are.

Mr. Siciliano warned that there is a movement from the Budget Overview Committee, (BOC) to cut some money from DPW's budget for this project. The BET has already placed a "subject to release" on these funds which requires public input. The initiative for public input is well underway and will continue.

VI. Chairman's Report, Nancy Caplan

Ms. Caplan stated she was contacted about a safety issue at Greenwich Point concerning drones. Mr. Siciliano detailed that the police are aware and there is an enforceable ordinance. The information is on the department's webpage.

Sec. 7-28. - Conduct and Behavior

19. No person shall have, use or operate any aircraft in a park, except as expressly authorized by the Director. The word "aircraft" includes any contrivance now known or hereafter invented, used or designed for flight in the air. The word "aircraft" includes gliders, helicopters and lighter-than-air dirigibles and balloons capable of carrying passengers or cargo.

Ms. Caplan inquired about the Plan of Conservation, (POCD) action items. Mr. Greco agreed to provide an update.

Ms. Caplan asked about the status of the Binney Park sedimentation project. Mr. Siciliano responded that there was an update provided by DPW and he would pass it along. Mr. Siciliano added that the draft of the Binney Park landscape plan has been forwarded to the department; Mr. Spaman will meet with the consultant to firm up the plan, followed by a meeting with the committee.

VII. Sub-Committee Reports-Dog Season Extension

Ms. Caplan stated she's been contacted by residents who are interested in extending the dog season at Greenwich Point. Mr. Siciliano recalled that when the advocate group came before the Board with the proposal the last time, the advice they were given was to be good stewards, and they have not been good stewards. The request was denied for this season; however, the Board agreed to consider additional proposals. Ms. Caplan advised that she'd like to close this request down if the Board doesn't want to consider the request beyond the 2016 season because of the poor stewards.

VIII. Sub-Committee Reports- Field Sub-Committee

Mr. Johnson reported that the committee did not meet; however, there was an Athletic Committee meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to review a complaint wherein there was a problem with a Town league which required discipline. In this particular issue, a staff member was physically threatened by a league player. Mr. Johnson stated that the chairman of the committee did a tremendous job. Mr. Hartwell added that league rules only reference play on the court, however he feels it should be expanded to Town-owned parking lots where this particular incident took place.

IX. Sub-Committee Reports-Golf

Mr. Loh reported that there has not been a user group meeting. The good weather has boosted numbers compared to last year. Mr. Siciliano added there has not been a user group meeting because the users are happy.

Mr. Siciliano reported that Lou Berlingo is back as the Operations Manager and Joe Felder signed a new contract as the golf pro. The course has a new ball machine and building with credit card access. Ms. Caplan inquired if lights would be considered. Mr. Johnson stated the airport may complain. Business is picking up at the restaurant. The last couple of weekends have been phenomenal. Annual memberships are ok, the bulk of people renew their membership their first day of play.

X. Sub-Committee Reports- Beach Policy Sub-Committee

Mr. Slyne reported he'd like to schedule a meeting for next week to follow up on the changes in the Beach Policy. Mr. Slyne inquired if the Police Department has signed the Memorandum of Understanding; (MOU) Mr. Greco replied that the MOU has not been signed; however he received an email that GPD intends to follow the MOU. Mr. Slyne added he will reach out to invite a representative from the Police Department.

Mr. Thalheim inquired about the use of Upper Havemeyer Field as he's received inquiries as to why the field was reserved for games. Mr. Siciliano stated the department has been highly criticized about not having a "game ready" field. It was decided that Upper Havemeyer Field would be designated as such. Taking the field offline for practices and drop in play helps it to rest and improves the quality for games.

XI. Unfinished Business - None

XII. New Business - None

XIV. Public Comments - None

XV. Meeting adjourned 7:43 pm.