



Board of Parks & Recreation

Meeting Minutes

May 30, 2018

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 June 27, 2018.

Board Attendees: Gary Dell'Abate, Frank DiVincenzo, John Hartwell, Kirk Schubert, Rick Loh, and Patrick Slyne

Staff Attendees: Joe Siciliano, Susan Snyder, Bruce Spaman, Amy Hansen, Brian Kerzner, Tom Greco, and Don Mohr

Ex-Officio Attendees: none

Guest Attendees: Leslie Yager, Dean Gamanos, Carol Swift, Alexandra Willcox, Nancy Chapin, Jill Oberlander, Karen Fassuliotis, Andrew Lapadula, Vincent Lapadula and Sue Baker

I. Mr. Dell'Abate called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. In the Keegan Conference Room. A motion was made by Mr. Schubert and seconded by Mr. Loh to approve the Board Minutes from the March 28, 2018 meeting. 6-0-0

II. **Boating & Marinas, Brian Kerzner**

Mr. Kerzner introduced new Boating Operations Manager; Amy Hansen. He stated Amy is a SUNY graduate who has spent the last four years building US destroyers in Maine. Amy is very well qualified for the position, and a pleasure to work with.

Ms. Hansen advised that she grew up in Greenwich and is happy to be back in Town working with the Marine Division.

Mr. Kerzner reported that the beaches are officially open for the season and all is going well. Only half of Byram is open, the other half will open once the pool is open.

Mr. Kerzner further reported that one of the Town ferries is currently at the dock, one will return from the shipyard later in the week, and the third one will return in a couple of weeks.

The Town's two islands are scheduled to open on June 9.

Mr. Kerzner announced that the following projects have been completed:

- Grass Island restrooms
- Greenwich Point Pier
- Cos Cob ramp

Mr. Kerzner reported he is working on the Byram dredge project; if all goes well, the dredge will take place this winter.

Mr. Kerzner advised that he is looking to swap out a couple of the 20' fingers at Cos Cob into 24' to better suit the needs/demands of boaters.

Grass Island and Cos Cob Marinas are just about full, Byram Marina is 60% full. The 20' slips do not have a waitlist, 24' slips have about a 4-year waitlist with 57 boats on the list, 30' 6-year waitlist with 70 boats on waitlist, 36' slips 8-year waitlist with 32 boats on the waitlist.

Mr. Siciliano added that the waitlist for bigger boats is so long because there are fewer of them.

Mr. Slyne inquired if slips are transferable. Mr. Kerzner replied that proof of residency is required with the registration to verify the boat owner.

Mr. Dell'Abate asked if people know where they are on the waitlist. Mr. Kerzner replied that the department is proactive in contacting the top 10 people on the list to let them know where they are and inquire if they are still interested.

Mr. Slyne questioned what the prospects are to increase supply. Mr. Kerzner responded that he is looking into some possibilities to expand some marinas. Working with engineers on feasibility.

Mr. Slyne inquired if the boat slips are profitable. Mr. Kerzner advised that while they appear to be profitable, the system is not setup to factor in the time and labor performed by other departments to determine true profitability.

III. Summer Recreation, Sue Snyder

Ms. Snyder provided a summary on summer programming which includes:

- Summer Camps: Kamp Kairphree, Greenwich Summer Adventurers, Music & Art
- Skatepark – ramp camps and clinics
- Tennis-lessons, Town Tournament
- Pickleball
- Baseball
- Soccer
- Swim – Greenwich pool at Byram Park
- Sandblast
- Special events: concerts, fireworks, permitting of other Town-wide special events

Additional information regarding the upcoming programs can be found on the Town's website: www.greenwichct.org.

Recreation Supervisor, Don Mohr provided a summary on the offerings he oversees including the Jim Fixx Memorial Day Race, and Kids Fun Run, adult softball; men's resident, men's industrial, women's and co-ed. For the first time, there is a woman playing in the over 50 league, she is enjoying it.

Mr. Mohr reported that it has been a busy season for fields; there is greater demand than supply. It has been a challenging year with new school start times and field closures for remediation.

Mr. Mohr stated that there will again be two fireworks display at Binney Park and Greenwich Point this year on Saturday, July 7, 2018 with a rain date of Sunday, July 8. There will be entertainment beforehand, the Sound Beach Community Band at Binney Park and a DJ at Greenwich Point. There is a new firework vendor; Bay Fireworks won the bid.

Mr. Mohr reported he has been working with Bay Fireworks. They are very enthusiastic, organized and the plans are coming along well. The previous vendor had been working with the Town for several years but were outbid.

Mr. Siciliano added that the department also coordinates 100+ special events a year, some are department sponsored/co-sponsored events and others are events that the department coordinates logistically with other groups/organizations.

IV. Director's Report, Joseph Siciliano

Mr. Siciliano stated that the Memorial Day programming is the kick off for summer for Parks and Recreation. The Memorial Day weekend was successful; Town Party, Memorial Services, Memorial Race and a Parade all events went on without a hitch.

Mr. Siciliano reported that both Island Beach and Great Captain island will open on June 9 with limited service until school gets out.

The pool requires several in-house inspections with the Building Department to get the TCO and CO. The CT Health Department is tentatively scheduled to conduct their final inspection on June 14, pending the outcome, the pool opening will be decided. An announcement will be made really soon. There will be a formal pool opening ceremony, date to be determined.

Mr. Siciliano stated he met with the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center (EGCC) Committee today to review the survey, Mr. Dell'Abate will report on that.

Mr. Dell'Abate inquired on behalf of Mr. Johnson, who received complaints about unfinished conditions at Binney Park as well as Perrot Library signs throughout the park.

Mr. Siciliano replied that the Perrot Library contacted the Department to request permission to post the story boards, they will be there for a month.

Mr. Spaman reported that someone took the signs and through them in the lake.

Mr. Schubert commented that the signs were nice. Mr. Siciliano agreed. Mr. Siciliano stated that DPW is currently finishing up the required permitted plans for the park; the

planting is currently underway. This was a requirement by Planning & Zoning (P&Z) and Wetlands that after the dredging to complete a landscape plan for the park. They're in the middle of that now, when it is finished, the Town will accept the project from the contractor. Then Parks & Recreation will come in and complete the plan.

Mr. Dell'Abate advised that he received calls about park passes. Parent's whose kids grew up in Greenwich and live elsewhere that are visiting, do they need to pay for a day pass and a vehicle pass? Mr. Siciliano replied "Yes", if not accompanied by their parent or annual pass holder, they would need to purchase a vehicle pass. To avoid the fee, they could bike or walk in.

Ms. Fassuliotis inquired about the turnaround time for park passes. Mr. Siciliano replied that the current turnaround time is 6-8 days. The office has been flooded with applications in the last two weeks. Residents can apply as early as February to ensure they have their passes activated in time.

Mr. Siciliano reported that park passes will be required beginning next week as the required date has already been extended by a couple of weeks.

V. Lia Fail Way, Frank DiVincenzo

Mr. DiVincenzo reported that he met with Joe Pelliccione to make a final drawing/plan. Mr. DiVincenzo shared a copy of the drawing (**ATTACHMENT A**). All of the engineers who helped were great. Two of the three engineers were paid Aubrey Mead did not charge for his services.

Mr. Siciliano stated he's had a preliminary discussion with P&Z, they asked for a bit more information. Mr. Siciliano advised that he visited the Pinetum site to take pictures, and ordered mapping from GIS. Mr. Siciliano stated he is compiling the information for P&Z and will meet with them shortly to determine if administrative approval or a full application is required.

Mr. Dell'Abate asked what the ideal completion date is. Mr. DiVincenzo replied by the end of the summer, before the weather gets cold. The installation should only take a week or two.

Mr. Siciliano stated that the next RTM meeting will be in September, ideally it would be great to have the gift acceptance then.

VI. Field Sub Committee, John Hartwell

Mr. Hartwell reported that the committee has not met; they will meet in two weeks.

Mr. Hartwell stated he has not heard anything negative about the potential of artificial surfacing at the middle school fields.

Mr. Siciliano added that the \$300k was approved for the Central Middle School survey, 150k is subject to release. Mr. Siciliano further added that he and the Turf Manager, Tim Coughlin met with the Board of Education's facility management team. Mr. Coughlin will be the liaison for Parks and Recreation as they develop the scope of work and hire a contractor to complete the study. Mr. Siciliano advised that the Field Analysis Template

that is being used is much more extensive than any others used before, previously the lack of information provided, caused confusion and delayed funding.

Mr. Gamanos informed that someone in his district raised some concerned about field congestion, and inquire if there was room for more fields? Mr. Dell'Abate that is why turfing the middle school fields is being looked into because turf fields have more playability.

Mr. Siciliano stated that the purpose of the Field Analysis Template is to run parallel the specifics for natural grass surface vs. artificial surfacing based on cost, playability, maintenance, etc. This is necessary to present an appropriate project plan to the residents and the BET. It is prudent to produce information regarding lighting and other potential for future use.

Ms. Baker inquired if the budget includes the costly component to dispose of artificial surfacing. This would be a big component and landfills do not want them anymore.

Mr. Siciliano advised that there is a whole environmental section on the template.

Mr. Siciliano stated that disposal of artificial surfacing has not been a problem yet. The warrantee is for 8 years, we maintain the fields well and are getting more life out of them, right now the surface at the High School is 13 years old.

VII. Eastern Greenwich Civic Center, EGCC, Gary Dell'Abate

Mr. Dell'Abate reported that the subcommittee met with the consultant, SFA to review the survey they produced. The survey is pending some tweaks and is expected to go out to 18,000 household email addresses in the next couple of weeks. As per the consultants, between an 8-10% response rate will make the survey a viable one.

Mr. Dell'Abate advised that the purpose of the survey is to provide a better understanding of community needs. Mr. Dell'Abate encouraged everyone to take survey.

Mr. Siciliano added that a press release about the survey will go out. The survey will also be available through the Town website. IP addresses are associated with each respondent which will alleviate individuals taking the survey multiple times.

Ms. Oberlander inquired how to preclude non-resident respondents through the link on the Town website.

Mr. Siciliano stated the intent in putting the link on the website was to make it convenient as possible for residents to take the survey. Upon discussion, Mr. Siciliano stated that perhaps the survey will not be linked on the Town website but the committee will further discuss the subject.

VIII. Dorothy Hamill Rink Sub-Committee, Rick Loh

Mr. Loh, reported that the RTM passed the budget for the feasibility/facility study for the Rink. There are some companies that have been discussed that could help with the next steps. The money will be available July 1. The Town's Purchasing Department will put out a Request for Proposal.

VIII. Unfinished Business

None

IX. New Business

Mr. Hartwell reported he received a complaint regarding the fees for the Memorial Day Race. Can family rates be considered?

Mr. Mohr stated that the fees are needed to cover expenses: road guards, police, t-shirts, scoring and timing fees, awards, refreshments, etc. The event does not turn a profit. If the race was turning a large profit, the entry fees would be reduced.

Mr. Siciliano stated there is no way around it, no tax dollars go into producing the race, it is self-sufficient.

Ms. Baker asked if anyone has seen the patchwork on the sidewalk by the far concession at Greenwich Point. Mr. Siciliano asked Ms. Baker to send him copies of the pictures.

Ms. Baker inquired why the Experience the Sound event was not on the special event listing. Mr. Siciliano stated they are not on the listing because the completed paperwork for the event has not been submitted.

Mr. Slyne asked about the types of events that will be posted on the Department's new website and when it is expected to go live. Ms. Caserta-McClester responded that events sponsored/co-sponsored by the Department will be posted on the Parks and Recreation site other events will be sent to the IT Departments content management team for posting on a Town-wide calendar. The new website is slated to go live sometime in August 2018.

Mr. Siciliano thanked members of the Administration team who have been working diligently on redesigning the Department's new webpage. The Department's new website will be significantly different; more attractive and user friendly.

X. Public Comment

None

XI. Meeting adjourned 7:30 p.m.

