



Board of Parks & Recreation
Meeting Minutes
July 31, 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 September 25, 2019.

Board Attendees: Nancy Chapin, Rick Loh, Frank DiVincenzo, Scott Johnson, and Kirk Schubert

Staff Attendees: Joe Siciliano

Guest Attendees: Dean Gamanos, Adam Tooter, Jill Oberlander, and Sue Baker

- I. Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Keegan Conference Room.
- II. A motion was made by Mr. DiVincenzo and seconded by Mr. Schubert to approve the Board Minutes from the June 26, 2019 meeting. 5-0-0

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

Mr. Siciliano reported that the fireworks displays were successfully moved (on Friday) to the rain date of July 7. There was a bit of a little lighter crowd, but event went off well. The event was slightly costlier to hire P&R Staff because the fireworks were held on Sunday. Next year the fireworks displays will be held on Friday, July 3rd with a rain date of Sunday, July 5th.

Mr. DiVincenzo added that the fireworks display at Binney Park was great.

The Greenwich Point Conservancy's Beach Ball fundraiser was a great. The event raised serious money for the renovations of the Chimes Building.

Mr. Siciliano stated he is in talks with Chris Franco about the plans. The progression drawings are underway. Mr. Johnson inquired if the Board can be involved in the project. Mr. Siciliano replied that once there is something manageable, will ask him to come and make a presentation to the Board.

The department has been working on preparing the RFP for the field study of current conditions. The RFP is in its second draft, and has been circulated to the committee. The committee includes; Parks and Recreation staff, Parks and Recreation Board members, Board of Education Staff and a member of the Board of Education. The goal is to get the RFP out in the next two weeks.

The committee is working on prioritizing the fields to be studied. There is currently \$75K in the budget. While the completed report may cost more, it is a good idea to have some of the important fields studied and figure out how to fund the rest. There are a number of fields

currently being worked on; Cos Cob Park, Central Middle School, Western Middle School and Greenwich High School which will be low priority for this study. A New Lebanon field will be back online shortly.

Ms. Oberlander inquired when the responses to the RFP are expected. Mr. Siciliano replied that responses would be back 3-4 weeks after posting. The goal is to have a fully executed contract in place by September 15.

Mr. Siciliano recalled a couple of years ago when the department contracted with a consultant to complete a master plan/inventory of Greenwich Point and noted that there is a \$100,000 in this year's budget to execute some of the action items. The report documents can be circulated for review followed up by a conversation on how to prioritize the items to be executed. This plan was not as extensive as the Binney Park Master Plan, it's more of a working outline (index) of issues that came up by interviewing various groups and people. A public hearing was held and all the issues were cataloged.

Mr. Johnson advised that he and other Town agencies met with the consultant. There were a lot of helpful discussions and ideas. Mr. Johnson further added that he drafted some language, he'd like to be included in the development.

Ms. Chapin stated she would like to be involved in the project. Ms. Chapin inquired who would be included on the committee to review and decide the prioritization of work to be done. Mr. Siciliano suggested the following members; Conservation, Board of Parks and Recreation, Parks staff, Marine Staff, Friends of Greenwich Point, Greenwich Point Conservancy, Shellfish Commission, and a member of the Parks and Recreation RTM committee.

Mr. Siciliano advised that he will distribute the report and he and the Board will collectively decide how to formulate the committee.

Mr. Siciliano advised that the pool has been very active, the attendance has moderated. He is keeping track of attendance and the operation. Following these season key personnel will have a discussion on policy, he's been thinking about changing some policy. The learn to swim and senior swim programs are very successful.

Mr. Siciliano reported that lifeguard coverage will start to fall off by the end of August, working on figuring it out with possible consolidation of hours at some locations. Lifeguards make around \$12 an hour. Private clubs pay \$15 an hour and feed the staff, it is difficult to compete with that. He knows some retirees that have been certified to guard in retirement, it's a second career for them.

IV. Binney Park Advisory Committee, Nancy Chapin

Ms. Chapin reported that the staff has been great; Greg, Darrin and Jon. The committee is working to finalize the plan for the island with Peter Bruno who has drafted the design. The idea is to use the gift money to complete the island. The bid came in around \$40,000+ which includes guaranteed plant material and the patio.

The committee is hosting a picnic at the park on Friday and inviting the Foreman and the crew as a thank you to the staff for their hard work. Ms. Chapin invited the Board.

Ms. Chapin stated that she feels that there are way too many garbage cans in our parks. In her experience visiting other parks in San Francisco and New York there are way fewer receptacles they have more of a carry in, carry out method. It would be a great idea to reduce the number of garbage cans; it requires less maintenance and less cost.

Ms. Chapin reported that the department has purchased garbage cans for the park which are in line with what was purchased at Cos Cob Park. The garbage cans are dome shaped to avoid people dumping their household garbage. Darrin's plan is to have a cement base and bolt them down. They have a door where the garbage cans can be accessed to be dumped.

Ms. Baker inquired why the big belly solar trash cans are not being considered. Mr. Siciliano stated that they are not too functional and are expensive.

Ms. Baker advised that the Friends of Greenwich Point purchased them for Greenwich Point, but they were taken up because the Operations Manager stated that the compacted garbage is a huge volume and it's very heavy. Ms. Baker stated that they work well and one big belly replaces ten regular garbage cans.

Mr. Siciliano stated that the goal is to put the purchased receptacles out to train people by having them out for a while then reduce the number of cans and move towards a carry in, carry out approach.

Ms. Oberlander added that she's experienced carry in, carry out overseas and it is easy to adapt to, but cautioned if there is going to be a concrete block where the cans are, it will be more difficult to remove them. Ms. Chapin responded that she agrees.

Ms. Chapin conveyed that the committee has been waiting (for several months) on Vitti to do the patio project. The hardscape needs to be done before the landscape can begin. Darrin is scheduled to meet with him to determine the timing and if the committee needs to find another contractor. Mr. Siciliano added that Vitti is on the approved vendor listing for the Town, he meets the insurance requirements of the Town and the committee needs to be cognizant when selecting a new contractor.

V. Lia Fail, Frank DiVincenzo

Mr. DiVincenzo expressed that he also has been waiting on Vitti. The stairs are the final piece to the project at Pinetum. He visited the site, there is a hole with poured concrete, it's been sitting there for 3 weeks. Vitti is reasonably priced, but it takes a while to get projects done, he's very busy.

The Foundation will pay \$3,000 towards the stairs, the Parks and Recreation Department will pay the difference. The stairs will be in the center lined up with the birdbath, from the birdbath to the stairs of the Garden Ed. Center. Mr. DiVincenzo advised that he designed a handrail that will be fabricated and installed for under \$900.

VI. Dorothy Hamill Rink Sub-Committee, Rick Loh

Mr. Loh advised that he was unable to attend the last meeting. Mr. Siciliano reported that the committee met with the consultant who delivered concept drawings from all of the information collected. The committee reviewed the drawings provided feedback. Mr. Siciliano stated that the committee will meet with the consultant next week to review the second draft which will incorporate the feedback from the last meeting.

Mr. Loh added that the architect has visited the Rink to identify areas that could be improved. The consultant will determine if the Rink is salvageable and can be renovated or if it is best to be rebuilt.

Mr. Siciliano further added that there is money in DPW's budget for engineering and architectural services. Once the report is finalized, the committee can look at design engineers.

Ms. Chapin stated that there is a resident that would love to support what the committee is doing. Mr. Loh stated they have not connected yet.

Mr. Johnson added that the Greenwich Sports Foundation has been helpful.

VII. Field Committee, Scott Johnson

Mr. Johnson stated that the committee is scheduled to meet August 7.

VIII. Eastern Greenwich Civic Center, Scott Johnson

Mr. Johnson reported that the committee met with potential architects for the Civic Center. 14 architects were pre-qualified, the committee dwindled it down to 5, one of which dropped out, leaving 4. They each gave a presentation of their vision, based on goals and realistic assumptions. For example; basic size, basic inclusions, basic footprint etc.

The committee members ranked each of the presentations on preset criteria. There was a tie between 2 architects. There was a second presentation, with new scoring criteria. The numbers should be out soon.

Mr. Johnson said he was astounded at what they accomplished for \$5,000.

Mr. Siciliano added that they put a lot of effort into it, it is a lead into whether or not they can negotiate a job with a substantially larger rate.

Mr. Johnson advised that there will be an expected debate regarding modernist vs. conventional styles. The important thing is that they included all the topics and provided some creative concepts/materials.

Mr. Siciliano added that he was impressed about the creative ideas to better utilize the outdoor space.

Upon discussion, Mr. Siciliano stated the next step will be for Alan to negotiate for services with the top firm. The selection should be final by mid-August.

IX. Unfinished Business

X. New Business

Ms. Baker wanted to dispel rumors that the potential plans for the Chimes Building do not include lockers.

Mr. Siciliano replied that once there is something manageable, they will come and make a presentation to the Board.

Ms. Oberlander noted that she was pleased to see that the Girls Softball program has been expanded for the fall as a result of community requests.

Mr. Gamanos stated that he had family from out of Town that experienced trouble coordinating their purchase of day passes and inquired if the procedure has changed?

Mr. Siciliano responded that day passes are not available at Town Hall and are only available for purchase weekdays at the civic centers. Residents who have validated their residency for the year may purchase day passes online 24/7.

XI. Public Comment

XII. Meeting adjourned 7:31 p.m.