



Board of Parks & Recreation  
Meeting Minutes  
September 26, 2018

***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 October 24, 2018.***

**Board Attendees:** Gary Dell'Abate, Frank DiVincenzo, John Hartwell, Rick Loh, Tom McGarrity, and Nancy Chapin

**Staff Attendees:** Joe Siciliano, Tom Greco, Sue Snyder, Bruce Spaman and Brian Kerzner

**Ex-Officio Attendees:** none

**Guest Attendees:** Leslie Yager, Darrell DeMakes, and Sue Baker

- I. Mr. Dell'Abate called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. at the Bendheim Western Greenwich Civic Center. Ms. Chapin noted a typo at the top of page four of the July 25 meeting minutes, it should read...

Ms. Chapin stated from an environmental standpoint, lights negatively impact a **moth** lifecycle; you do not want lights.

- II. A motion was made by Mr. DiVincenzo and seconded by Mr. McGarrity to approve the Board Minutes with the noted change from the July 25, 2018 meeting. 6-0-0

- III. **Fall Programming/Civic Centers, Sue Snyder**

Ms. Snyder reviewed the fall recreation and Civic Center offerings. Ms. Snyder further added that in addition to the programming, the division is responsible for field permitting as well as the permitting process for a number of special events put on by various groups and organizations. All information regarding programming can be found on the Town's website: [www.greenwichct.gov](http://www.greenwichct.gov).

Mr. Dell'Abate inquired which Civic Center was busier. Ms. Snyder responded that it is difficult to compare as both centers hold a variety of events, however the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center has more space to allow for larger events. Both civic centers have a variety of programs and activities and are pretty busy.

- IV. **Director's Report, Joseph Siciliano**

Mr. Siciliano reported that since the pool opened this year (late June) through Labor Day, 32,994 people used the facility. 1,889 guest pool passes were sold, only 1,349 were used. The management team will recap the season, and review policies for next season.

Mr. Dell'Abate asked if there was a wait to get in. Mr. Siciliano replied that there were times there was a bit of a wait, nothing significant, or anything that caused issues.

Mr. Dell'Abate questioned who the concessionaire was for Byram. Mr. Siciliano replied that Executive Deli has the contract. Overall there have not been any complaints about the concession. While they got a late start, people seem to be pretty satisfied with the pricing/service/food. The concessionaire contract will auto-renew next year followed by two, one-year option years based on mutual agreement.

Mr. Siciliano added that next season, the pool will be open from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Mr. Hartwell further added that overall the comments about the pool have been extremely positive, but there have been complaints about the operating hours of the pool/splash pad/kiddie pool as a result of the lack of lifeguards.

Mr. Siciliano stated that towards the last three weeks of the season, it is difficult to maintain lifeguard coverage as many of them are college students going back to school, taking vacations etc. There is a national shortage of lifeguards, the problem is not specific to Greenwich. Many other local facilities decrease their hours towards the end of the season based on how much lifeguard coverage they have and the same practice took place for Byram this season.

Mr. Siciliano added that there's a resurgence of veteran lifeguards who are going back to get recertified and working as lifeguards in retirement. Mr. Siciliano added he has three friends in the business who are actually doing this.

Mr. Siciliano stated that while the budget guidelines have not been published as of yet, the department is working on the preliminary operating budget, 15-year capital plan, and operational plan for next year. The budgets are due December 1.

**V. Chairman's Report, Gary Dell'Abate**

Mr. Dell'Abate reported that Mr. Johnson is away but will be back for the next meeting. There are some Foundation items to be reviewed with Mr. Johnson.

**VI. Lia Fail Way, Frank DiVincenzo**

Mr. DiVincenzo reported that the RTM Parks and Recreation Committee approved the monolith project (11-0-0). Additionally, the full RTM has approved the project (183-0-0). The following is the resolution that was unanimously approved by the RTM;

RESOLVED, that the Town of Greenwich accept the gift of six monoliths to be installed at Pinetum Park located at 150 Bible Street in Cos Cob, CT. The completed project is valued at \$35,000.00 which includes a reserve for maintenance. All funds have been raised privately.

Mr. DiVincenzo reported that he has a tentative meeting scheduled with Vitti Construction on October 10 to discuss the construction of the project. Once the meeting is confirmed, Mr. DiVincenzo will reach out to Mr. Siciliano.

Mr. DiVincenzo is hopeful construction can begin October 15. Mr. DiVincenzo stated he would like construction to begin before the frost. Some people expressed a wish to be present during

construction to watch/record; he will advise when the time comes. Mr. DiVincenzo added that the current plans do not include lighting.

**VII. Field Sub Committee, John Hartwell**

Mr. Hartwell advised that the committee is scheduled to meet October 17. Mr. Hartwell stated that he's received a lot of correspondence regarding artificial turf fields, some in favor of and others against.

Mr. Dell'Abate stated that some people were talking about their opposition to a certain material being used for artificial turf, but the material they were talking about is not one that is currently in discussions.

Mr. Siciliano responded that the Board of Education is authorized to spend \$150,000 for the Central Middle School Field, they are handling the contract.

Mr. Siciliano added that the field analysis report template that he put together with a consultant and the Board of Education includes information for both a natural turf field and synthetic turf field; the report will include lighting, traffic analysis, drainage, soil analysis, impact of play, scheduling, etc. This report will aid in providing the completed information before the project gets sidetracked by folks who do not have enough information or have misinformation. Our Turf Manager is on the team, but the Board of Education is leading the charge on this project.

Mr. Siciliano reported that the department schedules approximately 28,000 field hours a year. There are extra hours out there that cannot be accounted for.

**VIII. Eastern Greenwich Civic Center, Gary Dell'Abate**

Mr. Dell'Abate stated that the subcommittee worked with consultant, SFA to put together a survey. The survey went out to the public. The participation rate was above average. The subcommittee had an initial working meeting with SFA to review the results of the survey and ask questions. There will be a public meeting scheduled soon.

Mr. Siciliano advised that there is money in the budget for a preliminary design to 30% completed.

Mr. Siciliano added that when the Bendheim Western Greenwich Civic Center (BWGCC) was renovated, there was a committee formed that interviewed 5 design firms on preset criteria for the building. Each firm was paid a stipend to create a design concept; the committee then selected from the plans that were presented. The plans became the property of the Town because the firm was paid a fee. Once the design concept was agreed upon, a price was negotiated to do 30% design.

Mr. Siciliano stated the next step would be to agree on the building design features, then DPW will put out an RFP.

Ms. Chapin asked since the BWGCC was considerably funded with private funds, is the intent for EGCC to be the same. Mr. Siciliano stated that the BWGCC was a partnered project for \$7.5M. The Bob Bendheim Foundation gave a considerable amount for the design, in addition there were community fundraisers \$3.4M was raised in total, the Town funded the remainder.

**IX. Dorothy Hamill Rink Sub-Committee, Rick Loh**

Mr. Loh advised that the RFP for a facility study is out, the deadline is October 5. The committee will meet to review the RFP's that are submitted.

**X. Unfinished Business**

None

**XI. New Business**

Mr. Siciliano advised that after 16 years of service with the Town, Bruce Spaman will be retiring the end of the week. Mr. Siciliano will be back part-time for the next couple of months to tie up some loose ends. Mr. Siciliano thanked Mr. Spaman for his contributions to the department. An advertisement to fill the position is forthcoming.

Mr. Spaman stated it has been a privilege to work for the Town.

Mr. Dell'Abate thanked Mr. Spaman for his service to the Town.

Ms. Chapin stated she has worked with Mr. Spaman on a number of projects, he was always there to help and provide advice and assistance. He's been so involved with the non-profits in Town and they are appreciative.

Ms. Baker added that Mr. Spaman had some tough duty, he stood up to Eversource. He's been so good about making decisions that erred on the side of conservation.

**XII. Public Comment**

None

**XI. Meeting adjourned 7:26 p.m.**