

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

April 2, 2019

PRESENT: Chairman Joseph Schettino, Commissioners, Julie Mendez, Ron Stopkoski, Robert Karcich, Robert Neri, Harry Swaun

Also, present: Director Robert Potter, Clerk Kelley Nichols

Absent: Michael Sutyla

Guests: Bill Aniskovich, Elisabeth Peck, Amy King, Rob Clow, Creighton Johnson, Christine Elder, Matt Fragola, Willie Fritz, Chris Aniskovich, Mike Meyer, Jason DiGiandomenico, Chris Passante, Kevin Rayel, Todd Hajek, Tom Carmody, John Herbst

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Minutes:

- A motion was made by R. Stopkoski and seconded by J. Mendez to table the minutes of the special meeting on October 2, 2018 and the minutes of the regular meeting on October 2, 2018. The motion was carried unanimously.
- A motion was made to accept the minutes of the February 5, 2019 meeting by R. Neri and seconded by R. Karcich. The motion was approved with one abstention from H. Swaun.
- A motion was made to accept the minutes of the March 5, 2019 meeting by J. Mendez and seconded by R. Neri. The motion was approved with one abstention from H. Swaun.

Old Business:

STEAP Grant:

- Motion to move the STEAP grant to the top of the agenda was made by H. Swaun and seconded by R. Karcich. The motion was approved unanimously.
- Bill Aniskovich and Elisabeth Peck presented their report on his review of the visitor bleachers at the Peters Complex. Their task was to look at the existing bleachers and their condition and decide if they should be torn down and replaced with new bleachers vs. renovating them and making them ADA compliant. His report reflects that the bleachers are in excellent shape and tearing them down would be a mistake. Using unit prices from a recent project he did, this project would be approx. \$50,000 to install a ramp, risers, handrail, handicap seating and a walkway. He asked Hussy seating to take a look at the bleachers to get a second opinion. There is no need for a structural engineer to evaluate based on condition of existing bleachers.
- Mr. Aniskovich was asked if has done any other similar projects other than his most recent job. He replied, "Yes" and listed several other schools in CT and NY. He was also asked if he had any difficulty finding contractors willing to do this work? His response was "No."
- Mr. Aniskovich was asked, "If we do this work, do you see any problems with sightlines?" He replied, "No because you have an elevated bleacher now. You have enough room for adequate seating for handicap seating in sections."
- In Mr. Aniskovich's opinion, if we do this work, we will be good for another 20 years.
- Once materials arrive, work could be completed in 2 weeks.

Schedule Fields/Facilities for Spring and Summer:

- All fields, except one that is under construction, will open April 3, 2019.
- Youth organizations were reminded that all field request changes go through parks and recreation for approval and, upon approval, would be forwarded to DPW.
- Any requests for fields on the Clinton Little League rain date will get bumped if Little League's opening day is rained out.
- A motion to approve the Clinton Huskies schedule was made by R. Karcich and seconded by R. Neri. The motion was approved unanimously.
- A motion was approved Clinton Little League's regular schedule was made by R. Neri and seconded by J. Mendez. The motion was approved with one abstention by H. Swaun.
- A motion was made to approved Youth Lacrosse's and Lacrosse Pups' schedule, with the exception of Little League's rain date, was made by H. Swaun seconded by R. Neri. The motion was approved unanimously.
- A motion was made to approve Shoreline Sluggers' schedule by J. Mendez and seconded by R. Stopkoski. The motion was approved unanimously.
- A motion was made by R. Neri and seconded by R. Karcich to approve Shoreline Breakers baseball and softball subject to the Director's discretion. The motion was approved unanimously.
- High school practice football field available in July. It was recommended that Youth Rugby request use of the High school practice football field through The Morgan School.
- A motion was made by H. Swaun and seconded by J. Mendez to approve Clinton Youth Football & Cheerleading's practice schedule for Field 6 and their games on Sundays. The motion was approved unanimously.
- A motion was made by R. Neri and seconded by R. Stopkoski to approve Youth Rugby's practice schedule on Field 6 with the understanding that they would work out their conflicts with Youth Football or, if they can't, under the Director's discretion. The motion was approved unanimously.
- A motion was made by H. Swaun and seconded by R. Karcich to approve Clinton Youth Soccer's schedule. The motion was approved unanimously.
- A motion was made by H. Swaun and seconded by R. Neri to approve Nero Rush Soccer for games on April 28 and May 10 with the practice approval at the discretion of the director. The motion was approved unanimously.

Freedom of Information and Charter Compliance Issues:

- Currently in compliance
- A motion was made by H. Swaun and seconded by J. Mendez to remove Freedom of Information and Charter Compliance Issues from Old Business/Agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

Budget Update

- Moved to Director's Report

Election of Officers:

- A motion was made by R. Stopkoski and seconded by R. Karcich to have the officers remain the same. The motion was approved with abstentions from H. Swaun and J. Schettino.

New Walking Trail:

- Nothing to discuss at this time

Marking Existing Trails:

- Nothing to discuss at this time

New Business

- A discussion took place about the area next to the dog park that was recently cleared and whether there was a possibility to use it.
- The soccer field at high school is being refurbished. The Director proposes using the football field for 2 unified lacrosse fields for practices and games with the approval of the DPW.
- Due to the high school soccer field being shut down, a motion was made by R. Neri and seconded by H. Swaun to suspend the Commission's "no practices policy" on the football field for this season only for the U10 girls youth lacrosse for their practices; with the understanding that fields will be monitored to safeguard field conditions. The motion was approved unanimously.
- There was a discussion about the lining of the fields in general and the Peters Football field in particular. DPW will line all fields for in-season sports first. The Football field will be lined for 2 unified
- A discussion took place about the closing of fields in August. T. Hajek and T. Carmody stated they had no idea that all fields were shut down for two (2) weeks last year for maintenance purposes. It was agreed that DPW and Parks and Recreation will work together to determine the timing and the number of fields that are shut down during the restoration season from now on.
- There was a discussion about removing the tennis courts at the Peters Complex to make another small field available.

Director's Report:

- STEAP Grant: Originally, the Director was informed that the reason the bleachers have to be replaced was that they could not find a contractor to make the existing bleachers ADA compliant due to liability concerns. The bid deadline is at end of April to replace the bleachers. The First Selectman asked that the Commission provide input on how they want to proceed with the project.
- A motion was made by R. Stopkoski and seconded by R. Karcich to authorize the Director to make a recommendation to review the current bids for the new bleacher stands. After a brief conversation, the motion was withdrawn.
- The Director would like to ask finance to review park and rec budget again

R. Karcich made a motion, seconded by H. Swaun to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelley Nichols
Clerk