

MINUTES
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
February 4, 2020

PRESENT: Chairman Joe Schettino, Commissioners Rob Stopkoski, Mike Sutyla, Julie Mendez, Chris Passante, Greg Maher

Also present: Director Bob Potter

Absent: Commissioner Bob Karcich

Guests: Chris Williams, Ricky Moore, Michelle Bailey, Ellen Bailey, John Annello and Amanda King

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes of January 7, 2020:

- A motion was made by M. Sutyla, seconded by R. Stopkoski to approve the minutes of January 7, 2020 as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Guests:

Little League Representatives R. Moore and C. Williams:

- Requested approval to hang sponsorship banners in Peters Complex along the perimeter on fields P2 and P4
- They received approval to hang banners at Eliot for a limited number of banners in specific locations
 - The banners will be 2' x 6'
 - 5 banners to a field, 3 on one side and 2 on the other side
 - Hung for the spring season – April to June, then moved to Eliot
 - Banners must be kept clean, neat and local businesses only (none promoting alcohol, smoking, adult shops, etc.)
- A motion was made by M. Sutyla, seconded by G. Maher to approve Little League hanging sponsorship banners in Peters Complex on fields P2 and P4 (Holden and Giannotti) as stipulated (size, location, number and condition of banners). Little League will need to come back for approval next year with a review during the season. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by R. Stopkoski, seconded by M. Sutyla to add Charity Softball Tournament to the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Charity Softball Tournament presented by Michelle Bailey and Ellen Bailey:

- Project Courage of Old Saybrook, a substance abuse recovery center, requested authorization to host a drug free/ alcohol free Charity Softball Tournament
 - An application has been filed with Park and Recreation Department
 - Scheduled for July 11, 2020 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 - At Peters Complex on 3 fields, Lupone, Skau and Giannotti
 - Adult co-ed tournament
 - Teams pay to play, donation made to a charity of their choosing and Project Courage will match the donation for the winning team
 - Notified Project Courage they may need EMT services on premises, as well as the services of DPW and the Police Department; must also present the usual proof of insurance certificate
 - Details can be worked out with R. Potter when all the teams have been determined
- A motion was made by M. Sutyla, seconded by J. Mendez to approve the Project Courage Charity Softball Tournament for July 11, 2020 at Peters Complex with the fields to be used and exact details to be determined by R. Potter. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by R. Stopkoski, seconded by J. Mendez to move New Business #2 (Beach Concession contract) to the next item on the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Beach Concession Stand presented by John Annelo and Amanda King of Hog Wild Smokin' Cue:

- He presently holds the contracts for the concession stands at Harvey Beach, Old Saybrook (5 years) and Westbrook Town Beach (6 years)
- He would install his own equipment, remove existing equipment and have propane gas (100 gal tank) installed at his cost (located at the left backside corner of the building)
 - The smoker is located in Westbrook, so the smoked food would be delivered to Clinton from Westbrook
 - When he leaves he would reinstall the town's equipment
 - There is an option that gives the town right of first refusal for the gas equipment installed
 - M. Sutyla recommended DPW remove and store the town's electric equipment
 - Questioned what his startup costs would be changing from electric to gas (figures will be provided)
 - J. Schettino suggested the rental fee be waived for the first year but, perhaps, the electric utility cost (now reduced by the removal of some of the equipment drawing power) be paid by the business
- He would commit for this season and wants the option for next year
 - Would be open from Memorial Day to Labor Day or October 15th
 - Hours 11 a.m. to 5 or 6 p.m.
- Discussed the gate, allowing people just dining in without paying, not allowing food or ice cream trucks to locate at the beach, provide more picnic tables and private parties in the pavilion
- J. Schettino and R. Potter will present the proposal to the Town Manager and Town Council
- A motion was made by M. Sutyla, seconded by R. Stopkoski to approve Hog Wild for the Clinton concession stand and refer it to the Town Manager and Town Council, with the stipulation that the rental fee be waived for the first year and he be given the first option for the following year. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

Fund raising for Pavilion – status report and Vote to pass ordering the Harry Swaun Pavilion kit:

- Discussed:
 - The remaining funds in the STEAP Grant as reported from the Finance and DPW Directors
 - DEEP notifying Town that remaining funds may not be disbursed for items not originally in scope of work/identified projects
 - The entire STEAP Grant plan and all projects were included at the Town level but may not have been included in all submissions to the State
 - J. Schettino and Bo Potter plan to submit detailed paperwork, minutes and letters to the state as evidence that the pavilion was originally included in the total project
 - The total funds donated to date from various organizations and individuals
- A motion was made by M. Sutyla, seconded by G. Maher to immediately purchase the pavilion kit if the State of CT approves the inclusion of the pavilion in the STEAP Grant and releases the remaining funds. The motion carried unanimously.

As a side note, M. Sutyla, chairman of the Pavilion subcommittee, noted that when the kit is ordered we ensure the roof is blue metal (the same color or as close to the color of the school roof), that there are ice breakers on the roof and we determine whether the metal roof needs to be grounded (with a lightning rod)

Announcement board at IRCC:

- The Soccer Club donated the announcement board
- The following were recommended:
 - Post meeting minutes in the announcement board
 - Post the spring and fall schedules in the board
 - Move it
 - Take it down
- A motion was made by M. Sutyla, seconded by G. Maher to remove the announcement board and as a courtesy ask the Soccer Club if they would like to donate it to another organization. The motion carried unanimously.

Create new level in-park walking trail:

- Defer this item till the April 2020 meeting

Mark out existing walking trail:

- Defer this item till the April 2020 meeting

New Business:

Todd Hajek – discuss work to be done on fields in spring:

- Briefly discussed the distributed report noting the condition of the fields
- R. Potter met with T. Hajek to review the report

A motion was made by R. Stopkoski, seconded by M. Sutyla to add spring sport schedule to the March 3, 2020 meeting. A second notice should be sent by February 14th with all spring sport schedule submissions to be received in the P&R office by February 21st. The motion carried unanimously.

Use of Pierson School building and grounds:

- Some suggestions for the school are as follows:
 - Use it for recreational programs that are educational
 - Utilize the gym, making it larger by removing the stage
- Commission members should provide J. Schettino or R. Potter with concrete suggestions for uses of Pierson by the next meeting
- Discussed the Pierson playscape and a portion of it located on Stanton House property
 - Park and Recreation will be notified if they can use the field behind the school for events

Review of 2020-2021 budget request:

- A modification to the 2020-2021 budget is the removal of copier contract (this goes under the IT budget)
- The public hearing is scheduled for April 8th
- The budget referendum is scheduled for May 13th

Director's Report

- The security cameras at IRRC are being repaired by M. Neff and Omni
 - They may have been struck by lightning
- The skate park was closed for the season, may reopen in April
 - The gate has been removed and chains cut by vandals
 - R. Potter may weld a piece of chain link fence to the gate's location
 - A detailed report of the skate park's condition will be made by R. Potter after April
- DPW will finish removing the tennis courts
 - Some trees in that area have been removed
 - This cleared area is larger than Field 6
- The field inspection, as of today, indicates that fields are in good condition
 - The turf field has been locked and posted closed
 - DPW is repairing the goal mouths and some fields
 - Park and Recreation closes all their fields from December 1 to April 1
- The IRRC irrigation system pump for the artesian well needs to be replaced
- Morgan's practice football field may be closed for repairs
- A revision to the location of Harry Swaun Memorial Pavilion may have to be made due to the underground water utilities and the placement of the concrete pad
 - There are two viable choices – parallel to the fence and on a diagonal on the parcel
 - Ask T. Hajek to stake out the two possible concrete pad placements for the commissioners to review

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy McDermott, Clerk