

Meeting Minutes of the Parker Memorial Park Commission, Town of Branford, Connecticut
Special Meeting of August 23rd, at the Joe Trapasso Community House Honoring Branford World
War II Veterans, 46 Church St.

Present: Commissioners Kovi, Masotta, Radulski, and Redman; absent: Esborn. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. The minutes of the July meeting were reviewed and approved, with the motion to accept by Commissioner Masotta and seconded by Commissioner Kovi, with Commissioner Redman abstaining due to having been absent from the previous meeting.

Public Comments and Budget: There were no members of the public present, and no budget report, as the Commission's funds have been transferred to the Town's Parks and Recreation Department (P&RD).

Correspondence:

1. Members of the public have been contacting Commissioners with requests regarding memorial benches (two donations are pending or have been delivered, and the which is to be checked against the price paid by the Town) and a wedding on September 8th.
2. The Commission received a request previously that the use of an electric mower for Park use be investigated; Commissioner Masotta was to follow up with Director Palluzzi of the P&RD on that possibility.
3. The Commission discussed a request that the large lights in the Park be modified so that they can be turned off for special events such as the Town fireworks; Commissioner Radulski is to research that topic.
4. Several Parkgoers have reported that they've seen animals in trash cans and suggested that tops be installed on the cans; Commissioner Radulski has contacted Director Palluzzi regarding that request.
5. A Parkgoer requested installation of an additional baby swing; Commissioner Radulski is to address that with Director Palluzzi.
6. There appear to be fewer recycle boxes in the Park; Commissioner Radulski is to address that with Director Palluzzi and to check in the bathhouse for extra boxes.
7. During a recent beach closure, a parkgoer remarked that the East Shore District Health Department closure signage was not very prominent, and Commissioner Radulski contacted Director Palluzzi with a request that the Recreation Department and ESDHD work together to produce more and more-prominent signs for the public in the future.
8. An inquiry was received as to why the dumpster was removed from the parking lot near Big Rock and placed in the main parking lot – Commissioner Redman is to follow up with the P&RD and, if necessary, the waste-removal company.
9. The gate guards have requested additional enforcement actions regarding dogs being walked in the Park, and Commissioner Redman is to arrange a meeting among the Park Commission, the Police Department, and the Animal Control Center to discuss what actions are available. Commissioner Radulski is to research whether the Park's dog-related rules are based on Town ordinances or Commission rules.

Old Business:

1. The most recent update to the 'punchlist' of requests for maintenance/repair items, sent to Alex Palluzzi, Director of the Parks and Recreation Department, have been removed from the body of the minutes, and the remainder of the action items below reflect items within the Commission's area of responsibility. Commissioner Radulski will perform a walkthrough of the Park before the next meeting and update the punchlist for the Commission's review at the next Commission meeting.

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2. Regarding walking of dogs in the Park, refer to the previous minutes. At this meeting, the Commission reconsidered the issue and voted to not allow dogs in the Park at any time of the year.
3. Commissioner Redman noted in May that she'd recently observed pedestrians walking in the roadway near Big Rock and that action will be needed to prevent an accident between vehicles and pedestrians. Refer to the previous minutes for discussion of the Department of Public Works installing a pedestrian path off of the road; Commissioner Radulski is to discuss that with the Department of Public Works.
4. Issuance of parking stickers was discussed again; Commissioner Radulski contacted Town Hall as to how it might be advantageous to residents to have the stickers be configured to be adhered inside windshields instead of on bumpers and was told that that process is under discussion at Town Hall.
5. It was discussed whether gate guards should be moved off their duties on rainy days and reassigned to fair-weather days to assist the guard at the gate by patrolling the Park; that is to be discussed by Commissioner Radulski with Director Palluzzi.
6. Per the previous month's agenda, the fireworks were to be discussed – the preps, event, and cleanup – but the Fireworks Committee has not yet met to discuss it, so the Commission will hold off on discussing the fireworks. Also, see the "Correspondence" section for several new items.

New Business: None, as this is a special meeting.

Continuing Items to Monitor:

1. The area near the bocce court has been reported to sometimes have had personally owned items near it. Commissioner Radulski is monitoring the area.
2. The operability of the lights at the main gate and dock are being checked by Commissioner Radulski periodically, and he's been adjusting the timing of the lights at the main gate to reflect the time of sunset.
3. Commissioner Radulski reported at a previous meeting that he'd heard from several members of the public that the main beach appears to have a steep dropoff; he stated that he'll investigate this at the next convenient low tide and report his observations to the Commission.

The next meeting is to be held on Wednesday, September 11th, 2023, at 7 PM, via whatever means are available, allowing for safety; the location will be stated in that meeting's agenda and will likely be the Joe Trapasso Community House Honoring Branford World War II Veterans, 46 Church St.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Radulski, Chairman