

Parker Memorial Park Commission, Town of Branford, CT

Special Meeting of February 16, 2017, 7 Parker Memorial Drive, Branford, CT

Present: All Commissioners present (O'Neill, Radulski, Redman and Russell). Appointed Commissioner Masotta was also present; he remains to be sworn in before assuming his duties as a Commissioner.

Acting Chairman Radulski called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The minutes of the January 19 meeting were accepted by the Commission with corrections; Commissioner Radulski is to submit the corrected minutes to the Commission and Town Hall. The meeting agenda was discussed, with notice that, this being a special meeting (called because the regular meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather), items not on the published special-meeting agenda could not be introduced.

Public Comments: No members of the public being present at the beginning of the meeting, the public comment period was held open by vote. Director of Recreation Palluzzi appeared before the Commission shortly after the meeting began, and deferred comments.

Budget: Commissioner Russell reported that no difficulties with the present budget have come to light, with the remaining Winter expenses being electric-utility bills for security lighting. He also noted that the Commission's budget funds have been transferred to the Board of Recreation, per previous discussions with the First Selectman's Office, the Board of Recreation, and Director Palluzzi. As part of the budget discussion, the Commission reviewed (with Director Palluzzi's input) the evolving role of the Commission vis-à-vis the Board of Recreation with regard to the Park, and Commissioner Radulski is to send the Commission a set of draft recommendations to be made to the Board of Recreation, including (but not limited to) recommendations regarding the following items:

- A. Public inquiries about use of the Park
- B. Annual town fireworks (re: preparation and cleanup)
- C. The upkeep and location of Park maintenance equipment (including its truck)
- D. Park maintenance crew staffing and hours, including specifics of task accomplishment, such as restroom cleaning, beach raking, grass cutting, etc.
- E. Dates and hours of gate guards being on duty in the Park

Correspondence: Commissioner Russell reported that he'd had no further calls regarding a previous request from a fund-raising group wanting to hold a swim event ('Polar Plunge') in March.

Review of Commissioner Appointment Dates and Term-Expiration Dates: Commissioner Russell noted that he would be resigning from the Commission by June 2017 (and possibly earlier, depending on the timing of a replacement Commissioner being appointed); he also nominated Commissioner Radulski to be the new Chairman, which the Commission voted to approve. Chairman Radulski's term on the Board expires at the end of calendar year 2017.

Old Business:

1. Previous discussions about dead/deteriorated trees were deferred (refer to previous minutes), and Commissioner Redman mentioned that the Town had continued removing trees.
2. The Commission has received input from users of the Parks' bocce courts that another table should be installed; Chairman Radulski is to check on that and report to the Commission, with the aim of possibly adding a table identical to those presently installed, and also on the possible disposition of any loose personal property in the area of the bocce courts.
3. Also for the Winter, the Recreation Department has placed trash cans in the appropriate spots (bathhouse, Playscape, Big Rock) for parkgoers' use during the Winter. The Commission members are to monitor those on an ad-hoc basis and report any full cans to Chairman Radulski, for him to report to the Department of Recreation for action.
4. Commissioner Redman reported at a previous meeting that the "No Dogs" sign at the walkers' entrance at the northeast corner of the main parking lot needs to be restored/repaired.

New Business: None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 PM; the next meeting is to be on Thursday, March 9, 2017 at 7 PM, per the published schedule, with the meeting place to be determined and published.

Respectfully,

Matt Radulski, Recording Secretary

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