

**Meeting Minutes of the Parker Memorial Park Commission,
Town of Branford, Connecticut**

March 9, 2017, Branford Fire Department Headquarters, 45 North Main Street, Branford

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Present: All Commissioners present (Masotta, O'Neill, Radulski, Redman and Russell).

Chairman Radulski called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The minutes of the February 16 meeting were accepted by the Commission.

Public Comments: Alex Palluzzi, Director of the Town's Department of Recreation ('DOR'), appeared before the Commission to discuss DOR activities with regard to the Park. He introduced Mr. Harrison Kent, stating that Mr. Kent is a senior at Branford High School and would be requesting permission from the Commission to paint a mural on the Park's bathhouse as part of his school-mandated Capstone project. Mr. Kent and the Commission discussed his proposed work, and Commissioner Redman made a motion, which was seconded, that Mr. Kent be permitted to paint a mural on the northeast face of the bathhouse, and included a stipulation the mural include information as to the provenance and purpose of the mural. After discussion of the motion, Commissioner Masotta offered an amendment stipulating that Mr. Kent present in writing additional details, for the Commission's approval, including (but not limited to) (A) his approach to preparing and sealing the present painted surface (B) the type of paint to be used for the mural (C) his approach to overcoating/sealing the mural and (D) provisions for monitoring/maintenance/repair of the mural. The amendment and then the motion were approved by the Commission. The public comment period was then held open by vote.

Budget: As noted at the February meeting, the Commission's funds have been transferred to the Town's Board of Recreation ('BOR'). At this meeting, Commissioner Masotta discussed with Director Palluzzi the exact figures and line items, comparing the Commission's (old) budget with the Board's (new) budget. Further comparisons are expected at future Commission meetings. The Chairman stated that he'd attend the Representative Town Meeting's Way and Means Committee budget review on March 21st (7 PM, Canoe Brook Senior Center) and invited other Commissioners to attend if interested.

Correspondence: None reported.

Commission Membership: Commissioner Russell noted that he would be resigning from the Commission effective March 31st; Chairman Radulski requested that Commissioner Russell submit his resignation to the Board of Selectmen prior to the next Selectmen's meeting, scheduled for March 15th.

Old Business:

1. Dead/deteriorated trees in the Park were discussed; Commissioner Masotta recommended that the Town's Tree Warden be requested to walk through the Park (with one or more Commissioners) to inspect for unsafe tree condition (refer to previous minutes for additional information regarding tree care/removal).
2. The Parks' bocce courts were discussed (refer to previous minutes).
3. Over the Winter, Commission members are requested to continue to monitor the trash cans in the Park on an ad-hoc basis and report any full cans to the Chairman, for him to

report to the DOR for action. Commissioners can also, if convenient, check on the state of trash cans in the Dock area; it was noted that the Town Dock area is not under the Commission's purview.

4. The painted-over "No Dogs" sign at the northeast corner of the Park is to be fixed by the Chairman; if repair/restoration is not possible, then replacement will be pursued.
5. The previous night's BOR meeting was attended by the Chairman, and he discussed the recommendations he'd submitted for the Commission.
6. With regard to the Commission's ban on smoking in the Park, the Chairman is to coordinate public notices with the DOR.

New Business:

1. The Park's benches were discussed:
 - a. The legacy benches (specifically, those having heavy concrete risers and wooden seating surfaces) were noted to be, in some cases, sinking. These will be evaluated by the Commission for being raised and reset, or replaced if memorial benches are being donated in the near term, and if the locations are suitable for the memorial benches. The Chairman will coordinate these discussions with Walt Romblad. Also, Commissioner Redman suggested that they be repainted in less-bright colors, with those colors to be determined later – one suggestion was Hunter Green.
 - b. Memorial benches were also discussed. Commissioner Russell estimated that four parties might be donating benches or other items (trees, markers, etc.), in the near term. He outlined the Commission's practice regarding bench placement and selection (of having donors select a site in consultation with Walt Romblad, and selecting a specific style of bench (generally, from Belsen's Renaissance series - <http://www.belson.com/Wood-Renaissance-Park-Benches> - for consistency)). Commissioner Masotta recommended that the Commissioners inspect the Park's benches for condition and placement, and also that Ipe wood be specified, due to its strength and durability; he reported good results with its use in other Town locations.
2. Memorial plantings were also discussed, with Commissioner Russell noting that Van Wilgen's Garden Center offered advice on selecting plantings with good resistance to the Park's salt-spray conditions.
3. The schedule for gate guards has been outlined by Commissioner Russell and transferred to Commissioner Redman; the Chairman will take their input and develop a spreadsheet for the BOR to review with regard to the budget commitment entailed.
4. Commissioner Redman reported that there are a number of downed tree limbs in the Park and that Parker Memorial Park Drive has a number of potholes. The Chairman appointed Commissioners Redman and Masotta to a subcommittee to determine what the Commission should recommend to the Town concerning the road repairs needed. The possibility of installing speed bumps on the Drive was also discussed, as was speed-limit signage.
5. Commissioner Redman noted that the school's English as a Second Language ('ESL') group would like to return to the Park to continue its annual clean-up work; she is to forward some eligible dates to the Chairman for discussion with Walt Romblad.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 PM; the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 13, 2017 at 7 PM, at Branford Fire Department Headquarters, 45 North Main Street, Branford.

Respectfully,

Matt Radulski, Chairman