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Parker Memorial Park Commission Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2017, Branford Fire Department Headquarters, 45 North Main Street, Branford

Present: Four Commissioners (New Commissioner Ed Esborn and Commissioners O'Neill, Radulski, and Redman); one Commissioner absent (Masotta).

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. The minutes of the March 9 meeting were accepted by the Commission.

Public Comments: Mr. Harrison Kent appeared before the Commission and presented details regarding the mural he plans to paint on the Park's bathhouse (refer to the March minutes for details). The Commission approved the details, and the public comment period was then held open by vote.

Budget: No report (the Commission's funds have been transferred to the Town's Board of Recreation ('BOR')).

Correspondence: None reported.

Commission Membership: Commissioner Russell has left the Commission, and Mr. Ed Esborn has assumed a position as a Commissioner.

Old Business:

1. Dead/deteriorated trees in the Park were discussed; the Commission will request that the Town's Tree Warden walk through the Park (with one or more Commissioners) to inspect for unsafe tree/limb condition, before Branford public schools end their academic year and use of the Park correspondingly increases (refer to previous minutes for more information regarding tree care/removal). The Chairman is to determine the availability of the Tree Warden and Commissioners and to schedule the walkthrough.
2. Commissioner Redman reported that she'd been in touch with the Department of Public Works ('DPW') to request assistance with removing some downed limbs from the Park.
3. Regarding the deteriorated road surface of some parts of Parker Memorial Park Drive, discussed at the March meeting, Commissioners Esborn, Redman and Masotta are to determine what the Commission should recommend to the Town concerning the road repairs needed, and specifically, what sections require repair in order to reduce/eliminate hazards to pedestrians and thereby reduce Town liability, especially with the Town fireworks bringing many pedestrians to the Drive on that night.
4. The schedule for gate guards has been outlined by Commissioner Redman; the Chairman has developed a spreadsheet for the BOR to review with regard to the budget commitment entailed. Also, the Chairman is to contact the BOR to see if there are any action/report items regarding the Park.

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5. Commission members are continuing to monitor the trash cans in the Park on an ad-hoc basis and are to report any full cans to the Chairman, for him to report to the Department of Recreation ('DOR') for action.
6. The Parks' bocce court was discussed (refer to previous minutes), with the Chairman to ask the court users to remove any personal property.
7. 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.
8. The Park's benches were discussed (refer to previous minutes for details), and Commissioner Esborn reported that he believed that fixtures on the Town Green and adjacent areas have a specific 'Branford green' color.
9. Commissioner Redman noted that June 5 (primary) and June 6 (rain date) have been selected by the school's English as a Second Language ('ESL') group for its annual day to help with Park clean-up work, and that she has notified Walt Romblad of that.

New Business:

1. The Park's crew leader, Mr. Walt Romblad, is to begin work on April 17; Commissioner Redman reported that the dumpster is to be delivered within a few days and that she has mentioned to the DOR that the water will need to be turned on, which is generally accomplished by Mr. John Rank.
2. Commissioner Redman is coordinating having the beaches receive additional sand and being graded/smoothed, with the work to be April 18, 19, or 20. The main beach is to receive 60 tons of sand, and Big Rock Beach to receive 20 tons.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM; the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 13, 2017 at 7 PM, in Parker Memorial Park, at a table near the bathroom building.

Respectfully,

Matt Radulski, Chairman