

PARKER MEMORIAL PARK COMMISSION

Meeting of January 19, 2017

5 Parker Memorial Drive, Branford, CT

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Present: All Commissioners (Radulski, Redman and Russell; two positions are open).

Acting Chairman Russell called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. The minutes of the December 8 meeting were accepted by the Commission. Members of the public being present at the beginning of the meeting, the agenda was suspended until the public comments were made.

Public Comments: The following citizens appeared before the Commission:

1. Mr. Richard Hall requested an update on the Commission's actions regarding tobacco smoking in the Park. After discussion, the Commission first voted to act to discourage smoking in the Playscape (in addition to on the beaches, as previously decided) and then to ban smoking throughout the Park, in accordance with the following Town Ordinance concerning the Park: "§ 190-26. Nuisances. No person shall commit any nuisance or deposit any refuse or filthy matter in or upon any building in said park or within said park ..."
2. Mr. Walt Romblad, head of the Park work crew, stated that he would be available to work for the coming season, and the Commission gratefully accepted.
3. Mr. Alex Paluzzi, Director of the Town's Parks and Recreation Department, discussed the new budget/personnel arrangements taking place in the coming year.
4. Mr. Ed Masotta offered input about the smoking ban during that discussion and also recommended that those arrangements with the Parks and Recreation Department be followed carefully.
5. Ms. Penelope O'Neill offered input about the smoking ban during that discussion.

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.

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.

Old Business:

1. Previous discussions about dead/deteriorated trees were renewed (refer to previous minutes), and Commissioner Redman mentioned that the Town had continued removing tress.
2. The Commission discussed tobacco smoking in the Park (see the Public Comments section).
3. The Commission has received input from users of the Parks' bocce courts that another table is requested to be installed; Commissioner 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.
4. For the Winter, the cement blocks in the main parking area were moved in early December by the Department of Public Works ('DPW') to decrease the area open to parking in order to preclude damage to the grassy areas of the parking area.
5. Also for the Winter, the Recreation Department has placed trash cans in the appropriate spots (bathhouse, Playscape, Big Rock) for the public to deposit trash during the Winter.
6. Commissioner Redman reported at the 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: Commissioner Gaylord attended her last meeting as a Commissioner in December, and she passed away on December 31; the Commission approved a motion expressing its gratitude for her many years of service to the Town as a Park Commissioner and to the community overall.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM; the next meeting is to be on Thursday, February 9, 2017 at 7 PM at 5 Parker Memorial Drive (inside the Park).

Respectfully,

Matt Radulski, Recording Secretary