



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
Parks & Recreation Commission

*Susan Esty, Chairman
Steven Pernal, Vice Chair
Jim Henderson, Secretary*

www.oldsaybrookct.gov

*Star Rueckert
Bror Ashe
Nancy Gatta
Kevin Lane*

**OLD SAYBROOK PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

Wednesday, December 9, 2020; 6:30 PM
Meeting Held Via Web Access/Dial In

MINUTES

1. **Call Meeting to Order** – Chair Susan Esty called the meeting to order at 6:35p.m.
Present were: Director Ray Allen, Susan Esty, Jim Henderson, Steven Pernal, Star Rueckert, Kevin Lane & Nancy Gatta
Absent: Bror Ashe
Also present: Jona Paradis, Ass't Director & Tina Antolino, Recording Clerk
2. **Approval of Nov. 4, 2020 Meeting** – MOTION to accept the Nov. 4, 2020 minutes as presented made by Jim Henderson seconded by Star Rueckert and unanimously approved.
3. **Recognition of Guests** – Elena Pascarella of Landscape Elements, Phil Barlow of To Design & Rory FitzGerald of FitzGerald & Halliday
4. **Correspondence** – None
5. **Review of Bills** – The Commission reviewed bills dated 11/4/2020 through 11/20/2020 in the amount of \$13,691.05.
6. **Public Comments-** None
7. **New Business**
 - A. **Strategic Plan of Parks** – Phil Barlow began by reviewing concept plans for Town Park and Saybrook Point. Elena Pascarella reviewed plans for Harvey's Beach and Main Street Park. Commissioners and the Director asked questions and contributed ideas to the plan options.
 - B. **P&R Commission Elections 2021** – Nominations for Chairman opened- Susan Esty nominated herself, second Kevin Lane and unanimously approved. Nominations for Vice Chairman opened- Susan Esty nominated Kevin Lane, second Jim Henderson and unanimously approved. Nominations for Secretary opened- Susan Esty nominated Jim Henderson, second by Kevin Lane and unanimously approved.
 - C. **Budget Fiscal Year 21-22 Review-** Ray Allen presented the 2021-2022 budget. Four budgets consist of: recreation budget (salaries, benefits, repairs & maintenance etc.) increased by 3.9%, mini golf budget increased by 7.3%, Vicky Duffy pavilion budget increased by 2.5%, parks budget increased by 3.2%. Summary increase for all four budgets is 3.9%. There was discussion on the capital project budget vs. operating budget and the impact of the mandated State minimum wage increase. Potential capital projects for 2021-2022 are carpets for mini golf, a piece of playground equipment for Trask Park and the repair of informational signs at Fort Saybrook. There was discussion on adding a capital request line item. The budget is due by Jan. 15th to the Selectmen and will be recommended to the Board of Finance on Jan. 27th.

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D. Any Other Business Regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel – Jona Paradis reported two programs have been run: a modern dance program and yoga. Santa letters, cookie decorating and the snowman contest are coming for winter, however, the winter program booklet is on hold. There will be a hike at the Preserve on Sat. Dec. 19th.

8. Old Business

A. All Parks Review – Ray Allen reported the pavilion is not in operation for the foreseeable future because of Covid testing. Nancy Gatta commented there are issues with the tennis courts at Trask Park. These problem areas will addressed in the spring.

B. Preserve Update- Ray Allen reported the turnaround is completed and abutting plantings done. Clearing of the parking area will be started soon. The botanical study should be in soon, as well as the GI study.

C. Any other Business regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel- None

9. Reports

A. Chairman's Report – Susan Esty reported she went to the Ad-Hoc Preserve meeting and will be attending the CMC Preserve meeting on the 11th. She attended the EDC meeting and Board of Selectmen meeting to follow the STEAP grant approval for public toilets.

B. Director's Report – Ray Allen reported because of Old Saybrook's Covid status, they cannot have indoor activities for the near future and the recreation building is open for business only. The staff is working on creative programming.

C. Liaison Reports – None

MOTION to adjourn at 9:03p.m. made by Nancy Gatta seconded by Kevin Lane and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Antolino, Recording Clerk

NEXT MEETING JANUARY 13, 2021