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| 8 |  TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK **Parks & Recreation Commission** | *Susan Esty, Chairman**Kevin Lane, Vice Chair**Star Rueckert, Secretary* |
|   **www.oldsaybrookct.gov** | *Jim HendersonTom Boland**Nancy GattaSteven Pernal* |

# OLD SAYBROOK PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

# REGULAR MEETING

# Wednesday, February 13th, 2019

**6:30 PM**

**MINUTES**

1. **Call Meeting to Order** – Chair Susan Esty called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Present were:** Director Ray Allen, Chair Susan Esty, Tom Boland, Jim Henderson, Kevin Lane, Nancy Gatta, Steve Pernal

**Absent:** Star Rueckert

**Also present:** Assistant Director Jonathan Paradis

1. **Approval of Jan 9th, 2019 Minutes** – A motion was made by Jim Henderson and

seconded by Steve Pernal to accept and approve the minutes of the January 9, 2019 meeting.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

1. **Recognition of Guests** – Mr. and Mrs. George Kinser of South View Terrace were present.

1. **Correspondence** – None
2. **Review of Bills** – The Commission reviewed bills #328 through #366 dated February 13, 2019 in the amount of $10,710.
3. **Public Comments** – Mr. George Kinser of South View Terrace commented that the Rec Center doors were not being opened at 6 a.m. for residents to use the Facility. Director Ray Allen reiterated that the posted opening time for the Rec Center is 6:30 a.m., except on Sundays at which the opening time is 11:00 a.m. Staff may allow patrons in earlier while they are setting up for the day, but this is discretionary.
4. **Old Business**
5. **All Parks Review** – Director Allen stated that all parks are low maintenance at this time; ice skating took place at the Exchange Club Pond for one day in January.
6. **Preserve Update** – Eversource and OSPR received a report from the State of CT that contained unexpected requirements out of the norm from past reports. The Natural Diversity Data-Base (NDDB) is issued by the CT DEEP, listing biological inventories and restrictions in certain areas. Other items included requirements for power pole placements/access (setbacks, amount of gravel, etc.). Chair Susan Esty and Director Ray will reply to obtain more clarification.
7. **Strategic Plan of Parks Update –** Meeting with the Board of Finance is scheduled for next week; Kevin Lane reported that some retooling of the Strategic Plan may be in order to meet request for reduced quote. A phased approach was discussed, prioritize Parks based on usage levels and study those in detail. Main Street Park, Town Beach, Mini-Golf/Duffy Pavilion were recommended, but no actionable steps were defined until financing is better known. Consensus is that all our parks are “recreational” as opposed to existing as revenue-generators. Board of Finance discussions have mentioned entrance fees for some facilities, but the OSPR would prefer not, seeing them as a potential barrier to “healthy community life”. Some parks are restricted use (e.g. Ferry Road soccer field), but others have multi-usage capabilities that can be encouraged. The Strategic Plan does not have to be a town-wide study, but can be scaled to look at any subset.
8. **Any other Business regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel** – Chair Susan initiated a discussion on the use of flying drones at (or near) our Parks. In past instances, drone operators, even those with best intentions, have caused disturbance to patrons and even wildlife at Old Saybrook Parks and Beaches. There may need to be a policy on using drones within our areas, as drone flying is a form of recreation. Special authorized events such as weddings/parties could be evaluated. One topic to be considered: The operator may be on Town Park property while the drone operates in private lands/airspace, and also vice versa. How would such a situation be handled via said policy? The discussion was tabled until the March meeting so that research can be done into how other towns/states handle such issues.

 **8. New Business**

**A. Discussion of upcoming projects** – Director Ray Allen presented a number of possible projects under Board of Parks & Recreation consideration:

* Resurfacing of Kavanaugh Park tennis courts
* Pickleball Courts, Main Street Park
Needs water fountains, benches, signage for Rules & Regulations
Possible Horseshoe pits in back
Storage box for equipment
* Semi-permanent Ice Skating Rink w/ rentals
* Dog Walking Park (Maple Avenue or Leaf Dump?)
* Replace decking at Fort Saybrook Park
* Repair wall at Gardiner’s Landing

**B. Field Maintenance Discussion** – Director Ray presented information and quotes for turf preparation/fertilization services for outdoor ball parks. It was agreed to retain the services of Greenscape-Lawn Science for the 2019 Year.

**C. Any other Business regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel** –

Director Ray introduced the new Program FacilityAssistant Kyle Bohonowicz.

Asst. Director Jona briefed the Board on events and activities that OSPR has offered:

* OSPR Night at the OSHS Basketball game had great participation
* Summer Movies are fully sponsored
* Summer Concerts are fully booked
* Youth Golf Lessons at Cherrystones to begin soon
* Youth Summer Stock Theater Program will be offered this Summer
 Registrations expected to cover music licensing and staff costs

“Disney’s FROZEN JR.” will be featured

OSPR Snowman Building Competition was a success due to volunteers and snow making equipment. Thirty-two participants, about 100 spectators and a visit from WVIT-TV “Snow Monster” Weather Team made it memorable.

The Hot Shots Youth Basketball skills competition will be held March 2nd at 10 a.m. in the Gymnasium.

Adult Kickball League starts tonight; Four teams for 8 weeks on Wednesday nights, about 50 participants.

**9. Reports**

1. Chairman’s Report – Chair Susan Esty reported that she attended a meeting of Town Committee Chairs hosted by First Selectman Carl Fortuna. The intent was to socialize information on town projects to increase synergy and communication. Harbor Management and the Preserve ad-hoc committees shared common interests.

The Meeting with the Board of Finance scheduled for 02/12/19 was cancelled due to inclement weather; rescheduled to February 19th, 2019 at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

No further information about the road ending at Hartland and Pratt Roads has been presented, the Board of Selectmen have taken it up and will inform us if any action on our part is required.
2. Director’s Report – Director Ray Allen presented the 2019 Budget discussion notes, including the break-downs and details as well as Accomplishments and Objectives. This will be presented at the Board of Finance Meeting, February 19th, 2019 at 7 p.m.
3. Liaison Reports – None presently assigned

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Chair Susan Esty adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Henderson (for Sharon Tiezzi, Recording Clerk)

**\*\*NEXT MEETING MARCH 13, 2019 – Parks & Recreation Center\*\***

**\*\*\* 6:30 PM \*\*\***