



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK  
**Parks & Recreation Commission**

*Susan Esty, Chairman  
Kevin Lane, Vice Chair  
Jim Henderson, Secretary*

[www.oldsaybrookct.gov](http://www.oldsaybrookct.gov)

*Star Rueckert  
Bror Ashe  
Nancy Gatta  
Jane Wisialowski*

**OLD SAYBROOK PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday, December 8, 2021; 6:30 PM  
Hybrid Meeting**

**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, Kevin Lane, Star Rueckert, Jim Henderson, Bror Ashe, Nancy Gatta & Jane Wisialowski  
**Absent:** None  
**Also present:** Jona Paradis, Assistant Director & Tina Antolino, Recording Clerk
2. **Approval of November 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes** – MOTION to accept the minutes of November 10, 2021 made by Jim Henderson, seconded by Star Rueckert. MOTION to amend section 7C “location, such as, the *Preserve*” made by Jim Henderson, seconded by Nancy Gatta and unanimously approved.
3. **Recognition of Guests** – The Chair welcomed new commissioner Jane Wisialowski.
4. **Correspondence** – None
5. **Review of Bills** – The Commission reviewed bills for the month of November in the amount of \$7,730.50.
6. **Public Comments-** Mr. Carter addressed the commission regarding his proposal of a Covid Pandemic Monument. He felt it wasn't too soon to consider this monument. It's not about those who died- it's about recognizing those essential groups keeping us safe. He wanted to emphasize the importance of educating future generations about this time in history. He explained his choice of materials and placement of the monument.
7. **New Business**
  - A. **Election of Officers-** Nominations for Secretary opened- Nancy Gatta nominated Jim Henderson and unanimously approved. Nominations for Vice Chairman opened- Kevin Lane nominated himself and unanimously approved. Nominations for Chair opened- Jim Henderson nominated Susan Esty and unanimously approved.
  - B. **Covid-19 Monument Discussion-** Susan Esty gave an update regarding the status with other boards and commissions. Commission members asked questions of Mr. Carter.
  - C. **Any Other Business Regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel-** Director Ray Allen distributed a 2022-2023 budget packet. Commissioners reviewed the budget and asked questions about increasing fees to cover the cost of increased wages and payroll taxes.
8. **Old Business**
  - A. **All Parks Review** – No update
  - B. **Strategic Plan of Parks Discussion-** Ray Allen met with Geoff Jacobsen, Town Engineer, about engineering plans for Clark Park.

## MINUTES

Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

---

**C. Preserve Update-** Ray Allen reported they are still waiting on the GEI study.

**D. Any other Business regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel-** Jona Paradis gave a programs update: Winter registration begins Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> and basketball registration has already begun, the Starlight Festival saw about 120-140 children, afterschool programs resume in January and the snowman building contest will be back January 29<sup>th</sup>. Nancy Gatta suggested adult bike ride fieldtrips to Fisher's Island and Block Island.

**9. Reports**

**A. Chairman's Report** – The Chair attended the Preserve Ad Hoc meeting.

**B. Director's Report** – None

**C. Liaison Reports** – Nancy Gatta reported the turf lights committee has established tiered donation levels and have begun their buy-a-brick fundraiser which can be accessed at [www.raysforrams.com](http://www.raysforrams.com). There is about \$100k left to raise. The comedy night brought is about \$4,500. The Chair asked for a volunteer to be a liaison for the ARPA Ad Hoc Committee. There were no volunteers at this time, so Susan will attend meetings in the immediate future.

MOTION to adjourn at 7:55p.m. made by Star Rueckert seconded by Nancy Gatta and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Antolino  
Recording Clerk

**\*NEXT MEETING JANUARY 12, 2022\***