OLD SAYBROOK PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, January 8, 2020; 6:30 PM

MINUTES

1. Call Meeting to Order – Chair Susan Esty called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.
   Present were: Director Ray Allen, Susan Esty, Steven Pernal, Star Rueckert, Kevin Lane, Nancy Gatta, Bror Ashe & Jim Henderson
   Absent: None
   Also present: Jonathan Paradis, Assistant Director & Tina Antolino, Recording Clerk

2. Approval of December 11, 2019 Meeting – MOTION to amend the December 11, 2019 minutes with the following corrections: section 7D “The Commission is asking for $49,000 to complete the strategic plan which will highlight four revenue driving facilities.” Section 7B “The Director met last week…” and section 1 add Nancy Gatta to present members with an arrival time of 7:33 p.m. was made by Kevin Lane seconded by Jim Henderson and unanimously approved.

3. Recognition of Guests – Susan Esty welcomed newest member Bror Ashe to the meeting.

4. Correspondence – none


6. Public Comments- none

7. Old Business
   A. All Parks Review – There was no new discussion.
   B. Parks Projects Discussion – There was no new discussion.
   C. Preserve Update – Director Ray Allen and Kathy Connolly completed a grant proposal for money from the Trust for Public Land. The proposal was distributed. It goes to CMC this week for approval. The Chair stated she would like to talk to the chief of police about doing spot checks for motorized riders at the Preserve entrances.
   D. Strategic Plan of Parks Update – The Board of Finance voted 4/3 to fund the strategic plan. The expenditure will now go to town meeting for approval. Members suggested sending emails and social media reminders to publicize the town meeting and gather support for the plan. There was discussion on creating a department sinking fund. Members also discussed inviting the Economic Development Commission (EDC) to collaborate on the strategic plan.
   E. 2020-2021 Budget Discussion- Director Ray Allen presents the budget to the Board of Finance on Jan. 25th. Capital projects will be presented on Jan. 17th. Kevin Lane suggested adding irrigation at Maple Ave Field to the projects list. Ray will do so. A copy of the disc golf presentation given to the Rotary Club was distributed for review. Susan Esty will draft a letter to the First Selectmen reiterating the need for restrooms at Saybrook Point Park.
F. Any Other Business Regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel – Steven Pernal commented a lot of progress was been made on the tennis courts at Kavanaugh Park. Ray Allen said the final resurfacing will finish in the spring.

8. New Business
   A. Beach Pass Regulations 2020 Review – The current regulations were distributed for review. The Director commented that stickers not affixed to the windshield are illegal. There was discussion on how to remedy the problem. It was decided the parking attendants will keep a log of specific cars and pass numbers who do not have stickers affixed. If a specific pass number is repeatedly seen on different cars, the department will take action. Discussion on opening and closing the beach gates took place. This item will be placed on February’s agenda.

   B. Any other Business regarding Programs, Facilities or Personnel- Nancy Gatta asked if the commission or department could write a letter in support of lights at the high school football field which is going through planning and zoning approval. The Commission felt having lights can only expand programs offered by the department. MOTION that Parks and Recreation support the revised zoning requirements for lights made by Jim Henderson seconded by Kevin Lane and unanimously approved. Ray Allen will write the letter to the Planning/Zoning Commission.

Joana Paradis reported winter basketball has about 90 kids, which is less than previous years. The snowman championship is Jan. 18th, temperature dependent. He asked if any commissioners who would like to be a judge, to please email him. Pickleball, high school futsal & after school programs have started and Tball registration has begun. He stated it’s been difficult to find volunteer coaches for programs. Fourth graders are now bused to the rec center on half days. Summer concerts are being booked and summer movies are being scheduled.

9. Reports
   A. Chairman’s Report – Chair Susan Esty reported she attended the following meetings: Dec. 17th Board of Finance, Dec. 23rd Board of Selectman & Jan. 6th Board of Finance. She reminded commissioners the Selectmen’s budget workshop is Jan. 25th & the Planning Commission meeting to approve high school lights is Jan 15th. It was discussed there is no option to subscribe to the Commission’s agendas or minutes on the town website. The director will look into that.

   B. Director’s Report – none

   C. Liaison Reports – The EDC would like a Parks & Rec liaison. Volunteers should contact the chairman. Susan Esty will be the liaison to the Harbor Management Commission in regards to kayak racks. Susan Esty reported the CT river walk from the causeway to the fort monument is almost complete- reiterating the need for public restrooms in the area.

MOTION to adjourn at 8:05p.m. made by Nancy Gatta seconded by Kevin Lane and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Antolino, Recording Clerk

*NEXT MEETING FEBRUARY 12, 2020*