



Town of Ridgefield Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 18, 2023 at 6:30 pm
Meeting held via Zoom
APPROVED

PRESENT: P. Kearns, B. Dobbin, D. Shofi, E. Bottali, P. Nichols, D. DiPinto, B. Schneider, M. Knox, E. Cipolla, A. Platt

These minutes are a general summary of the meeting and are not intended to be a verbatim transcription. A recording of the meeting will be available for 45 days post:

<https://www.ridgefieldparksandrec.org/about-parks-recreation/commission>

Meeting called to order by Chair at 6:41pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

David Shofi made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Pete Nichols. Discussed amending the agenda to move New Business before the approval of the Meeting Minutes. David Shofi motioned to approve and Barbara Dobbin seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Recognition of Guest:

Andrew Wilkinson, Eagle Scout candidate

NEW BUSINESS

1. Andrew Wilkinson presented his completed Eagle Scout project for improvements to the Sturges Park Campsite.

Evie Bottali made a motion to approve and accept the final project. Seconded by Pete Nichols. Motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by David Shofi to approve the June minutes. Seconded by Pete Nichols. Motion carried 5-0.

BUSINESS UPDATES

Chairperson's Report – Phil Kearns

Nothing new to report outside of the committee reports.

Director's Report – Dennis DiPinto

- Project Updates:
 1. Governor Park Courts Project: Classic Turf will be on-site next week and the project is on-schedule to be completed this fall.
 2. Barlow Mountain Pool Dehumidification: Moving ahead with prep work; HVAC unit delivery is expected in September.



3. RAC Barlow Mountain Pool Improvements: Funding is in-place; There's a meeting to discuss timing with RAC Steering Committee on Thursday, July 20th.

- Meetings Attended:
 1. Met with some of the Town Dept. Heads to discuss annual fireworks celebration. It was determined the fireworks would not be rescheduled after two weather-related cancellations.
 2. Monthly Revenue Meeting
 3. Monthly Budget & Policy Committee Meeting
- Staff Updates
 1. Parks Maintainer interviews are complete and an offer was extended.
 2. Susan Bonistalli will be retiring at the end of the month after 27-years with the department.
- Spray Bay Surface Maintenance – New surface coating was applied last week to eliminate the stickiness that was occurring with the surface material. There have been no new complaints about the surface since we reopened on Monday, July 17th.
- Great Pond was closed for swimming on July 17th due to a blue-green algae that had formed on the surface of the pond following the weekend storms. The beach remained opened for boating and the water is now clear and swimming has resumed.

Financial Update – Eileen Cipolla

Ms. Cipolla provided the monthly financial report. Revenue and expenses are on-target.

Assistant Director of Parks' Report – Dennis DiPinto reported on behalf of Bob Schneider

- Working on the Main Street Clock repairs

Assistant Director of Program Operations' Report – Mary Knox

- Adventure Day Camp is underway as well as other Specialty Camps with good attendance.
- Planning involvement in the Ridgefield Summer Fest event on July 29th
- August 1st – Fall Registration begins
- We have a new hire, Kimberly Ames who's joined the Aquatic staff

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Marketing & Promotions – Evie Bottali

Nothing new to report.

Membership – Kim Hulber (absent)

Nothing new to report.

Aquatic & Programs – Barbara Dobbin

Nothing new to report.

Budget & Policy – Phil Kearns



Nothing new to report.

Buildings & Grounds – David Shofi

Native Plant Policy: Mr. Shofi reached out to the Conservation Commission to schedule time in September to review the latest document and discuss roles and responsibilities for presenting to the BOS; Waiting to hear back.

Special Services & Community Outreach – Pete Nichols

Nothing new to report.

With no further business, Barbara Dobbin moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:25pm. David Shofi seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

REMINDER: Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 19 at 6:30 pm via Zoom.