



MINUTES

WATERTOWN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT REGULAR MEETING

DATE: Thursday, March 2, 2023
TIME: 7:00 PM
LOCATION: Town Hall - Parks & Recreation Conference Room
61 Echo Lake Road
Watertown, CT 06795

I. Call to Order:

Chairman William Donston called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

PRESENT: William Donston, Chairman
Ken LaRosa, Vice Chairman
Pat Rinaldi, Secretary
Karim Belica
Margaret Germain
Alan Mickel

ABSENT: Vacancy

OTHERS PRESENT: Lisa Carew, Parks & Recreation Director

III. Public Comment:

None.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

A. Thursday, February 02, 2023

MOTION: Ken LaRosa seconded by Alan Mickel to approve the Meeting minutes for February 2, 2023.

Motion Approved

V. Correspondence:

- Appointment letter for Kari Belica; commission replacing Jack Donahue.
Term to expire
January 31, 2024.
- Soccer fest – annual soccer fundraiser.
- 2023/2024 budget review.
- Knights of Columbus tournament, June 12, 2023.
- Applications for 1 Food Truck at VMP
 1. 1st Birthday Party
Frankie Hotdogs
 2. Birthday Party
Mission BBQ

VI. Reports:

A. Chairman

William Donston reported:

Thanked Chris Martin for his years of service on the commission as a chairman for sub-committees. Chris has “big shoes to fill” replacing George Palomba as President of Grows – Girls’ Softball.

Winter programs are winding down and spring programs are starting up.

The bushes in back of the flagpoles at VMP need to be cleaned up and trimmed.

B. Director of Human, Social & Leisure Services

Lisa Carew reported:

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Saturday, March 11th marks the 10th (official) Shamrock Shuffle Road Race. The Race begins & ends at Polk School. The main race is at 10 AM the Kids Mini-Shuffle is at 9.

CRESTBROOK:

Our Golf Pro’s contract is finalized, contract has been signed. Town Council approved it.

The contract to rent an additional 8 golf carts to rent during peak time has been approved by the Town Atty, Town Council and the Town Manager

PARKS:

John and his staff are doing spring clean-up around the occasional snow flurries. There has been work done along the Steele Brook Greenway and Naugatuck River Greenway by the Highway Department.

RECREATION:

Carrie Godfrey and Garry Smith have been working very diligently to launch summer programs and activities. Registration for Summer programs goes live on Friday, March 17th.

SOCIAL SERVICES:

Many of the Covid help is scheduled to stop or fade away soon. The State announced that the free bus service expires March 31st, the .25 gas tax is slowly being reinstated. NOW, Inc Energy assistance went from \$1000 per household to \$500 due to demand. Our resources are being used. Thankfully our community continues to support those in need.

SENIOR SERVICES:

Senior newsletter is attached for review. Laura, Cheryl, Carol, Cindy & Frank are all doing a terrific job. Laura is offering more and more programs every month and attendance has greatly increased. She projected approximately 70% of those using the facility are registered with the MySeniorCenter.com program.

Lisa Carew gave Assistant Director Carrie Godfrey's monthly report:

A few new classes started: Gym Time with Mr. M, Spanish Lessons, Cupcakes & Crafts, Drawing Class, Ball Till You Fall, Valentine's Day Party at JTPS and Youth Painting Party. They all had great attendance.

February 11th, we sponsored a Valentine's Day Bingo Party. This was designed for children ages 4-10. There was Bingo, Pizza and Games while the parents were able to have a date night. This was a great hit; parents were very happy!

Attendance at Adult Open Gym – Basketball on Tuesday's has been consistent. Taft Open Ice Skating is almost over. Next year we need to find more skate guards!!

Our Summer Night Out – Block Party dates were approved. They will be on June 17th, and August 19th. Carrie Godfrey, Special Events Coordinator has been working on making the event bigger and better!

The Shamrock Shuffle Committee met almost every week in February. Everything is coming along great. We decided to bring the shamrock arch to JTPS on March 1st. The kids can walk through it into school. They will be handed a shamrock bead necklace and the flyer with info to register for the race. As of February 22nd – we have over 350 participants registered.

Our Youth Basketball and Travel Leagues are still playing. They have about 3 weeks left. Basketball pictures were handing out, certificates are ready, and our coaches and players are looking forward to any championship games we have scheduled next month.

I started putting together the Summer Activities Guide. It will be available beginning of March. It will be posted on our website, Facebook page and copies located in our office for the community to grab.

C. Sub-Committees

1. Golf Course

Ken LaRosa reported:

- We should be all set to open in April

2. Facilities

Pat Rinaldi reported

- No report at this time.

VII. Old Business:

A. Proposed Community/Senior Center – no reports.

IX. New Business:

A. Review and Considerations of Submitted Applications for 2023

1. *Motion: Ken LaRosa seconded by Peg Germain to approve the Knight of Columbus Tournament.*

Motion approved

2. *Motion: Ken LaRosa seconded by Peg Germain to approve permit #1146, Pavilion & Frankie's Food Truck.*

Motion approved.

3. *Motion: Ken LaRosa seconded by Karim Belica to approve permit #1152, VMP & Food Truck Missing BBQ*

Motion approved

B. Golf Professional Contract – contract signed. Marty Brynes has been renewed – as a 2-year contract effective January 1, 1023 until December 2023.

C. Additional Golf Carts – proposal went before Town Manager, Town Attorney and Town Council. Approved contract for 8 additional used golf carts with roofs during peak season (Memorial Day to Labor).

X. Adjournment:

MOTION: Pat Rinaldi seconded by Alan Mickel to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:05p.m.

Motion Approved

Respectfully submitted,

William Donston, Chairman
Watertown Parks and Recreation Commission

Approved: _____
Susan King, Clerk