



# MINUTES

## WATERTOWN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, May 2, 2024  
TIME: 7:00 PM  
LOCATION: Watertown Municipal Center – Recreation Department  
61 Echo Lake Road, Watertown, Ct.

I. Call to Order  
Chairman William Donston called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

II. Roll Call  
PRESENT: William Donston, Chairman  
Ken LaRosa, V. Chairman  
Pat Rinaldi, Secretary  
Karim Belica  
Margaret Germain  
Joseph McGrail  
Alan Mickel

ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Herm Desena, Council Liaison, Michael Ganem – Director of Parks & Recreation

III. Public Participation – none.

IV. Approval of Minutes  
A. April 4, 2024, Regular Meeting

*MOTION: Al Mickel seconded by Pat Rinaldi to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for April 4, 2024.*

Abstain: William Donston

Motion passed.

V. Correspondence

- The commission received a Thank You note from the Exchange Club for our donation and a letter was received from Jackie Post
- A report from Assistant Director, Carrie Godfrey highlighting activities, programs, and special events was read into the record.

VI. Reports

A. Chairman

Chairman William Donston reported:

- Flags will be installed soon and before the Memorial Day parade.
- No Farmers Market this year, while we consider alternative locations.
- Thanked the department for its thorough overview of the department that was presented at the public hearing.

B. Director

Michael Ganem reported:

- Presented a PowerPoint presentation on behalf of the department regarding the recent public hearing.
- Update on the “carry out what you carry in” policy. Signs are being installed at strategic locations.
- Staff is very busy with typical springtime preparations.
- Angel’s Playground is still in the works, finding replacement features has proven a challenge.
- We will begin preparing Sylvan for the summer season. This will require a significant lift from both the Park’s crew and the Department of Public Works. The lake will have to be drained a couple of feet as part of the process to open.

C. Sub-Committees

Ken LaRosa reported:

- Discussion about the changes at the course that were announced.
- The change of the “9’s” has been well received.
- The league calendar is robust.

VII. Old Business

A. None.

VIII. New Business

A. Review and Consideration of Submitted Applications for 2024. – no applications this evening.

Parks and facilities:

- There will be some landscape improvements at Crestbrook Park to include the area abutting the Pro Shop. May 23, Community Service Day with Taft students. 30 students will be divided into 3 groups of 10. Work is planned at the Dog Park, and Steele Brook Greenway, FASC and Crestbrook Park.

Gifts and Donations:

- Requests to accept gifts and donations to be installed or planted at the parks require the review and approval of the Parks and Recreation Commission. The commission would like the director to provide alternatives to the post family including that a plaque be installed on one of the existing benches at Crestbrook Park Golf course.

Policies and Procedures:

- The department is going to take a deep dive into the various applications and forms that are used in the office to conduct its business. The goal will include ensuring consistency.

IX. Adjournment

*MOTION: Al Mickel seconded by Ken \*  
*LaRosa to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:24 p.m.*

Motion Approved

Respectfully submitted,

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William Donston, Chairman  
Watertown Parks and Recreation Commission

Approved:

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Susan King, Clerk