



WATERTOWN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, June 01, 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 7:01 p.m.

II. Roll Call

PRESENT: William Donston, Chairman
Ken LaRosa, V. Chairman
Karim Belica
Margaret Germain
Joseph McGrail
Al Mickel

ABSENT: Pat Rinaldi, Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT: Lisa Carew, Parks & Recreation Director

III. Public Participation – none

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. May 04, 2023, Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ken LaRosa seconded by Joseph McGrail to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for May 04, 2023.

Aye: 5 Donston, LaRosa, Mickel, McGrail, Belica
Nay: 0

Abstain: 1 Germain

Motion passes

V. Correspondence

- Security Plus – for Sunset Grille.
- 2023 – 24 Summer Enrichment Program.
- ARPA funds for pickle-ball.
- Sylvan Lake Maintenance – to reopen the park.
- Thank you letter from Pastor Joe Chabot, National Day of Prayer.
- Thank you letter from Zachary Polletta for his scholarship from the Shamrock Shuffle Road Race (SSRR)
- Thank you letter from Mattingly Creter for scholarship from the SSRR.
- CT DEEP grant award - \$299,935.00 for the design and development of the Naugatuck River Greenway.

VI. Reports

A. Chairman

Chairman William Donston reported:

- The Memorial Day Parade – huge turnout, weather was great.
- He will appoint a Sub-committee for the John Staver Perpetual Endowment Fund in September.
The Sub-committee will set some goals and expectations for capital improvements for future projects. There was over \$77,000 this year.
- Centennial Park – name for the 1100th anniversary of the Watertown Foundation. The new gateway park is located at the intersection of Buckingham Street and Echo Lake Road.
- The Town Manager “super committee” – one representative from each civic group and agency.

B. Director of Human, Social & Leisure Services

Lisa Carew reported:

SPECIAL EVENTS:

The Memorial Day Parade was a success, the weather was with them. We were able to test out the new sound system at the Oakville Green

CRESTBROOK:

Fire Marshal info- fire lanes, signs, etc.

Attendance has been good; weather has been good.

The eight additional golf carts arrived before Memorial Day

Ray and staff removed the fence around the grease trap, Highway Department has been doing

a lot, removing the stumps next

PARKS:

John and his staff have been busy between the field and parade

RECREATION:

Summer activities are filling up fast. Joint grants with the BOE for Summer Enrichment has been a great service for children who might not otherwise have opportunities. This will be our 3rd season with the joint programs.

SOCIAL SERVICES:

Last month was the Postal Carriers Food Drive, great turnout

SENIOR SERVICES:

Senior newsletter is attached for review. Laura, Cheryl, Carol, Cindy & Frank are all doing a terrific job. Many popular special events. Attendance has been increasing monthly.

Lisa Carew read Assistant Director Carrie Godfrey's report:

Our Summer 2023 Activities guide is out. Registrations have been coming in since March – the community seems very excited and anxious for summer camp! Our most popular day camps are full with a waiting list. We will be working with the Board of Education again. They were approved for the enrichment grant.

Adult Open Basketball is still running every Tuesday for 18+ from 7-9pm. Every week we get a great turnout. Everyone comes to play!

The Watertown Fall Festival Committee met for the first time on May 9th. Things seem to be in order for this September 16th event. I sent out vendor applications, set up some entertainment, etc.... Vendors started sending in their applications.

Completed new summer staff interviews the first week of May.

Spring Swim Lessons are still in progress. I received two compliments on how great the instructors were with the kids.

All summer staff acceptance letters were mailed out on May 15th and we are preparing for our summer staff meeting in June.

*A few new classes started: Kids Rise Up Yoga, Country Line Dance, Safe Boating Course, A Lovely Day with Mom & Me, Gym Time with Mr. M & Babysitting course. They all had great attendance.

Our very successful Watertown Recreation Swim Team Spring and Conditioning Clinic continued through the month of May. We had just over 50 swimmers continued to develop their competitiveness and anticipation of next winter's season.

We have seasonal staff helping get the Crestbrook pool ready for the summer. They drained and cleaned it out. It will be acid washed on May 27th. Then the boys will start painting on May 30th.

The interest in the Farmers Market is growing. We've had a number of applications and look forward to another season of fresh produce and craft items starting June 25th.

Mark the date Saturday, June 3rd for the Town Wide Tag Sale. Maps will be available for pick up early next week at Gayle's Farm Shoppe, Adams Supermarket, Watertown Meat Center, Tony's Seafood, LaBonne's Market and the Parks & Recreation Department. We have 69 homes registered to participate so far.

Mark the date Saturday, June 25th will be our first Night Out on Main Street. The Mark Fusco Band will be performing. Vendors are starting to send in their applications.

C. Sub-Committees

Ken LaRosa reported:

1. Golf Course-

Ken LaRosa reported:

- 204 season memberships have been sold so far.
- Thanked Ray Marks, Golf Course Foreman and his staff and also Marty Byrnes, Golf Pro and staff for the course conditions and great turnout this year.
- The focus is to promote kids and woman to bring back those groups to the course.
- The holiday event by the restaurant there were many concerns, including the parking situation on the course, driveway to Pro Shop, along Bennett's Drive and on Northfield Road.

Lisa Carew stated she was at the course approximately an hour before their (the Sunset Grille's) event. The restaurant had people directing traffic, at that point parking we confined to the grass area.

It was later estimated upwards of 800 people were present. No portable restrooms were brought in.

It was decided by the Parks & Recreation Commission to send the restaurant a listing of idea and suggestions.

We, the Parks and Recreation Department we notified about the lack of parking for golfers, noise on the course, etc.

It was discussed to send the restaurant ideas regarding parking. The restaurant used all the golfers parking spots in every lot road, parking areas designated for golf staff, etc.

The Commission discussed solutions for future events:

- No concert before at certain time- before 4 or 5 PM
- Limit # of participants by selling advanced tickets and not selling at the door.
- Hiring Police Officers.
- Rope off what areas for parking – sharing parking lots applies not only to the town but also the restaurant
- Encourage carpooling.
- Renting portolets to accommodate the crowd – swimming pool restrooms were not open.
- No parking on Northfield Road

- Coordination prior to events for parking.
- Consider having restaurant staff park at the CBP Maintenance lot on Northfield Road.
- Consider offsite parking and hiring shuttle busses to handle large crowds.
- The Parks and Recreation Director was concerned about rest rooms and suggested portable toilets and hand washing stations be rented, also if an event is that large ho hire police coverage.

VII. Old Business

- A. Proposed Senior & Community Center update – none.
- B. Naugatuck River Greenway Connecticut DEEP grant award – DEEP Grant award for design and development.

IX. New Business

- A. Review and Consideration of Submitted Applications for 2023. – none.
- B. Building/Facilities located within the Town Parks

Al Mickel handed out a copy of the Town Charter in particular the area of definition of buildings and facilities within a town park.

X. Adjournment

MOTION: Margaret Germain seconded by Alan Mickel to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:11 p.m.

Motion Approved

Respectfully submitted,

William Donston, Chairman
Watertown Parks and Recreation Commission

Approved: _____
Susan King, Clerk