

MINUTES

WATERTOWN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, March 7, 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 7:02 p.m.

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

ABSENT: Karim Belica

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael Ganem - Director of Parks and Recreation, Senior and Social Services

III. Election of Officers

Chairman William Donston I am going to make an agenda move and I am going to move New Business B sign in the honor of Avery Lambert ahead of public participation in reference to the gentleman that is here tonight to explain everything, he was here an hour early.

b. Sign in honor of Avery Lamphier – moved agenda item 8b before public participation.

There was a presentation from Sign & Wonders regarding the “Avery Lamphier” sign.

Chairman William Donston we will go back to the regular agenda, when we get to that point in the agenda we will continue on.

IV. Public Participation – none.

V. Approval of Minutes
A. February 01, 2024

MOTION: Ken LaRosa seconded by Al Mickle to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for February 01, 2024.

Motion passed

VI. Correspondence

- Assistant Director, Carrie Godfrey, provided a report about programs and special events.
- A letter was received from Jennifer Ciuffo regarding a charity book sale at Veteran’s Park.
- Two requests for tournaments
- Quotes for the signs
- Replacement equipment to make repairs for “Where Angels Play” playscape.

VII. Reports

A. Chairman

Chairman William Donston reported:

- Winter programs well attended
- Scoreboard at Deland Field is working
- Lockbox relocation

B. Director

Michael Ganem reported:

- Staff in all divisions are performing well
- Priorities for the budget and Senior Transportation Grants

C. Sub-Committees

Ken LaRosa reported:

- The new scorecard is printed and available.
- Prices are comparable to other similar courses.
- Discussion about the variety of golf carts on the market and the pros and cons of gas and battery-operated carts.

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business

A. Review and Consideration of Submitted Applications for 2023.

MOTION: Ken LaRosa seconded by Al Mickle to approve the McFadden Tournament on August 10, 2024.

Motion passed

MOTION: Ken LaRosa seconded by Pat Rinaldi to approve the PD Tournament on October 4, 2024.

Motion passed

The commission further discussed the letter from Jennifer Ciuffo about using the pavilion at Veterans. It is advised that Ms. Ciuffo complete the application.

B. Sign in honor of Avery Lamphier – the parks department will work on the wording for the signs.

The Director is to use his discretion regarding the quality of the installation materials.

Motion: Margaret Germain seconded by Al Mickle to use the aluminum design with a post-mount slanted option.

Motion passed

C. Purposed repairs for Angel's playground – the question is who is financially responsible for making the repairs needs further research.

X. Executive Session: In 8:15 p.m.

Motion: Ken LaRosa seconded by Margaret Germain to enter into executive session to discuss the lease of Sunset with members present and Michale Ganem.

Motion passed

Returned from executive session at 8:37 p.m.

A. Restaurant lease

Motion: William Donston seconded by Ken LaRosa to recommend to the Town Attorney to negotiate a scaling rate each year beginning on April 1, 2024, as follows: \$4100, \$4200, \$4300, \$4400, and \$4500 for the 5th year. Also, a \$1,000 reduction in the rent during January, February, and March. Additionally, the reduction of this \$1000 per month is to be applied equally to the rent each proceeding April through December and or paid in full by December 31 of each year.

Motion approved

XI. Adjournment

MOTION: Joseph McGrail seconded by Al Mickel to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:39 p.m.

Motion Approved

Respectfully submitted,

William Donston, Chairman
Watertown Parks and Recreation Commission

Approved: _____
Susan King, Clerk