



MINUTES

WATERTOWN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT Regular MEETING

MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, March 3, 2022
TIME: 7:00 PM
LOCATION: Parks & Recreation Conference Room
61 Echo Lake Road
Watertown, CT 06795

I. Call to Order:

Chairman William Donston called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

II. Roll Call:

PRESENT: William Donston, Chairman
Ken LaRosa, Vice Chairman
Pat Rinaldi, Secretary
Margaret Germain
Christopher Martin

ABSENT: John Donahue
Amanda Manforte

OTHERS PRESENT: Lisa Carew, Parks & Recreation Director

III. Election of Officers:

Held in February 2022

IV. Public Comments:

None.

V. Approval of Minutes:

A. February 3, 2022 Regular Meeting

MOTION: Ken LaRosa seconded by Chris Martin: To approve the Regular Meeting minutes for February 3, 2022.

Motion Approved

VI. Correspondence:

- Article about Joe Polletta in Waterbury Republican-American about the Crestbrook Park Golf Course bunker renovation grant.
- 2021 Food Bank Donations – donor list.
- Bid proposals about Golf Professional.
- Men's Golf Association.
- Request for VMP/Soccer-Fest
- Restaurant hood in kitchen-remodel
- Watertown Recreation Age Group Swim Team 50th Anniversary is 2022. The team is just finishing up the season.

Motion: William Donston seconded by Ken LaRosa: To add New Business Item D Letter to Town Council of open seat on commission.

Motion approved

VII. Reports:

A. Chairman Report

William Donston reported:

- Winter programs finishing up.

B. Director Report

Lisa Carew reported:

- Budget, the presentation to the Town Council and public will be on Monday, March 7, 2022.
- Site assessment for the proposed Community & Senior Center and Police Department
- Senior services – Specials & Employees
- Golf, proposals were due February 28, 2022, and extension was made to accept proposals until March 18, 2022.

Lisa read Assistant Director Carrie Godfrey's report for February 2022

- A few new classes started: Magical Creations, Little Scientists, Foodology, Kids Can Cook, Happy Hearts, Zumba, Cupcakes and Crafts, Gentle Yoga and Basic First Aid/CPR. They all had great attendance.
- February 12th, we sponsored a Valentine's Day Bingo Party. This was designed for children ages 5-12. There was Bingo, Prizes, Music, Pizza and Crafts 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.
- Our Youth Basketball and Travel Leagues are still playing. They have about 2 weeks left. Basketball pictures were handing out, certificates are ready, and our coaches and players are looking forward to any championship games we may have.
- I started putting together the Summer Activities Guide. It will be available on extremely early this year not that everything is online. It will be posted on our website, Facebook page and copies located in our office for the community to grab.
- The Watertown Recreation Swim Team just finished a successful 50th season.
- Open ice skating at Taft School wrapped up on Sunday, February 27th. Attendance was steady throughout the season.

C. Sub-Committees

- Ray is working hard to get course ready for opening.
- POS, website, on-line tee times
- Dead trees removed by staff near restaurant
- Field Meeting

VIII. Old Business:

A. Don Stepanek Memorial, Tabled from 11-4-21 – tabled.

B. George J. Palomba Memorial – Letters form Chris Martin, President of GROWS Softball.

Motion: Williams Donston seconded by Margaret Germain: To name softball #1 at VMP after George J. Palomba.

Aye: 4 LaRosa, Germain, Rinaldi, Donston

Nay: 0

Abstain: 1 Martin

Motion passes

C. Dog Park Opening – Earliest will be held in late spring. Area still has fencing to be done & hydro seeded. H2O foundation installers.

D. Greenways – SBGW – Area near pedestrian bridge is being scoured away since dam was wiped out last year during storm.

E. Community Center Update – Site Assessment.

IX. New Business:

A. Considerations and Approvals of any Pending Pavilion, Tournaments & League Applications

1. *Motion: Ken LaRosa seconded by Chris Martin: To approve with condition, must supply with non-profit's numbers otherwise pay.*

Motion approved

2. Nolan/Phelan Memorial

Motion: Ken LaRosa seconded by Margaret Germain: June 25 2022, Saturday approved pending non-profit #'s, otherwise pay full rates.

Motion approved

3. Watertown Knights of Columbus

Motion: Ken LaRosa seconded by Margaret Germain: Approved pending non-profit numbers, otherwise wise pay full rates.

Motion approved

4. WAYS

WAYS Soccer Fest to approve food trucks and no music or DJ before 10am and finish by 8 pm. Must provide event insurance & certification of insurance.

Motion: Ken LaRosa seconded by Pat Rinaldi: To accept permit by Stephanie Varrone to have a food truck at VMP must provide info to TAHD at lease one week prior to event per contract.

Motion approved

B. Sunset Grille Kitchen Renovations

C. WRST 50th anniversary Records Board – (Watertown Recreation Swim Team 1972-2022).

D. Letter to Town Council of open seat on commission.

Motion: William Donston seconded by Ken LaRosa to request the Town Council fill a Commission position in accordance with the Parks and Recreation By-Laws. Currently a person has been appointed but has never been “seated”. This person has not been sworn in, and has refused all US Postal Service correspondence and has had no contact with the office staff. This Commission seat needs to be filled to be successful.

Motion approved

X. Adjournment:

MOTION: Chris Martin seconded by Ken LaRosa: To adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Motion Approved

Respectfully submitted,

William Donston, Chairman
Watertown Parks and Recreation Commission

Approved: _____
Susan King, Clerk