



GORDON OLIVER
CHAIRMAN

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Parks and Recreation Commission

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THOMAS BOSCARINO
CYNTHIA COSTANZO
KEVIN HAYES
ROBERT LAREW
SHERRY KRAUS
SHAY DRAKE
CHRISTOPHER WEITZ
JENNIFER MULLIN

Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes of Meeting: October 10, 2018 7:00 PM @ 31 Arbor Way

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gordon Oliver, Cyndi Costanzo, Shay Drake, Chris Weitz, Jennifer Mullin

OTHERS PRESENT: R. Tedford, Recreation Director; K. Wasielewski, Administrative Secretary II; M. Bartley, Assistant Director Recreation; Peg Busse, Board of Finance Member

AGENDA:

I. CALL TO ORDER

Gordon Oliver, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

II. CORRESPONDENCE

None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES : September 12, 2018 regular meeting

MOVED (WEITZ), SECONDED (DRAKE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 12, 2018 PARKS AND RECREATION MEETING

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

None

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

None

VI. RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

A. FALL: program /review/update

Update given on the fall programs for the 2018 season.

B. Travel Basketball Evaluations/policy

Travel basketball evaluation dates have been set and are posted online, on ActiveNet, and printed and posted in the Recreation Department.

C. Capital Improvement budget proposal for: 2018-19 FY

Trails committee intends to submit a proposed capital improvement (2018-2020 FY) budget-recommendation to the Board of Selectmen that requests consideration of installing a maintained walk-way within the confines of Brookside Park. The parks and recreation commission will review the request as well.

D. Scoreboard installation @ Pinney Fields: In memory of Hunter K. Giroux

Scoreboard will be delivered October 11, 2018. The new Brookside Park signage is up as well.

E. Special Events schedule/update: Poulin 3 vs. 3 event: Oct. 8, 2018

The tournament went well. There were 39 sponsors and 38 teams participated this year. There were also several donations made from Ellington companies that resulted in additional revenue.

F. Fall soccer: Travel /recreation/updates

Update given on the travel soccer program for the fall.

G. Re MEMO: request to assign commission members as liaisons re Rec/bball leagues

Robert Tedford will be sending out the assignments for the liaisons for basketball for commission members to accept or decline.

H. Nov. 3: FALL Festival: 5K and 3K Road Races

Update given on the Fall Festival Road Race to happen at Brookside Park.

I. Security: Create ID (laminated) for all volunteer staff, especially indoor (gymnasium) use

Additional updates will be provided after the October 22, 2018 meeting with the Board of Education.

J. Evening and weekend access to public school gymnasiums. Town-wide safety admin mtg.

Meeting with the Board of Education set for October 22, 2018 to discuss safety plan and access to public school gymnasiums. Additional updates will be provided following the meeting in terms of the school access for the Parks and Recreation Department programs at the schools.

K. Eagle Scout project (Batz Property/complex), and Sandy Beach/Brookside Park

Three out of five projects have been completed. The Eagle Scout awards banquet will be held Saturday, October 13, 2018 at 5:00pm at the Congregational Church.

L. Trails Committee update: Oct. 29, 2018 special event @ Brookside

The Trails Committee has about 35-40 sponsors for this event. They have worked with Parks and Recreation and Department of Public Works to determine the field layout in addition to having constable coverage. The intention for the event is to educate the residents on the proposed trail and to receive feedback.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Finance: 2018-19 (revenue) Budget review

Update on 2018-19 budget was given.

B. Maintenance: Field usage

Grub and crab grass problems on the fields this season. With the weather and amount of rain we have received we have shut down (until further notice) Pinney fields to prevent field damage. Games and practices have been moved to Brookside Park.

C. Outdoor facilities: Crystal lake School athletic improvements/field use

No additional updates. Continuing to use all the athletic fields to prevent overuse of all the fields.

D. Operations: Attendance (program) recommendations

No additional updates given on the operations: attendance recommendations.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

R. Tedford has informed the commission that the Ellington YMCA has agreed to implement a cricket field at their facility at 11 Pinney Street, Ellington, CT.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

MOTION (MULLIN), SECONDED (DRAKE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO DISCUSS THE USE OF BROOKSIDE PARK AS A POTENTIAL PLACE TO INCORPORATE THE POULIN PROJECT PHASE ONE

There was a discussion of the results of the Planning and Zoning special meeting that was held on October 9, 2018 in regards to the Jacob Poulin Project. Members who attended the meeting gave an overview to the remaining commission members letting them know that there is a large group of residents that are opposed to the development of a park on Middle Road. They have hired an attorney and have brought up concerns of traffic and noise. Residents also discussed the loss of revenue from the farming space and the ongoing maintenance costs that will be added at the expense of the town. Many residents in this group wanted to know why Brookside Park wasn't being considered for this project.

This led to the discussion of if Brookside Park could be used for phase one of the project, which includes a deck hockey (approximately 50x100) and the first part of the playground (approximately 50x50). Looking at the map of Brookside Park thoughts on moving one soccer field and shifting two others to accommodate for the space needed for phase one of the project was discussed. Commission members agreed that further studies and work would have to be completed at Brookside Park to determine if this was feasible.

The commission then discussed the long term plan of the project and if they knew the foundations thoughts on potentially moving the project from Middle Road to Brookside Park. Commission members discussed that Brookside would not have the space needed to allow for all the phases of the projected project. They did not know if the foundation wanted to consider this option. They also discussed briefly how the deck hockey could bring many outside resident as there are no others in the immediate area. The Parks and Recreation Commission is open to sitting down with all parties involved to discuss additional options, if needed.

The Planning and Zoning Commission has tabled a decision on this item until their next regularly scheduled meeting on October 22, 2018. Therefore, the Parks and Recreation Commission has

chosen to let due process run its course to determine the outcome of the projected project. They do believe there is a feasibility in using Brookside Park, however additional studies would need to be completed at Brookside to determine this.

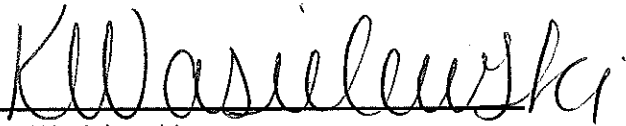
A. Discuss: Plan of Conservation and Development (plan).

C. Weitz updated the commission on the Town of Ellington's Plan of Conservation and Development for the next ten years. Weitz will send the commission the information on the Recreation facilities and as a commission we need to determine what we hope to get out of the next ten years in terms of Recreation. Commission members should review and provide feedback.

X. ADJOURN

MOVED (DRAKE), SECONDED (MULLIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN AT 8:32 P.M.

Submitted by:

X 

Kristen Wasielewski
Administrative Secretary II