

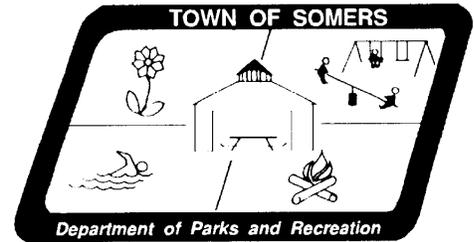
Somers Parks & Recreation Board

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Kevin Westerman
Chairman



MEETING MINUTES

April 25, 2018

Chairman Westerman opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

The members present were: Jim Boniello, Stephen Krug, Michael Papa, John Papalia, Don Penzine, Michele Sanz, Michele Werney, and Kevin Westerman.

John Zattola was absent.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Steve Ralston was also present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Penzine to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2018 meeting. Mrs. Werney seconded the motion. All were in favor.

MR. RALSTON'S REPORT

Mr. Ralston reported that a Park Foreman has still not been hired. Hopefully a decision will be made soon.

NEW BUSINESS

Men's Softball League Eligibility Review – A request has been made for an update for the requirements to play in the Men's Softball League that addresses graduating from Somers High School and having a parent living in and paying taxes to the Town of Somers. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed by the Board to broaden the eligibility to allow players who had been eligible based on their parents' residency to remain eligible after their parents leave Town, provided that they continuously remain on a team's roster. Mr. Ralston will write proposed language that addresses the changed requirements and will provide all with a draft at the May meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Parks Master Plan Review Update – Last month, Bailey and Van Tassell Parks were discussed in an effort to update the Parks Master Plan.

Mr. Ralston will research to better understand whether, and to what extent, there are

wetland restrictions, and he will make arrangements to meet with Mr. Papalia at Van Tassell Park to discuss his suggestions further.

Mr. Boniello, Mr. Ralston and Mr. Westerman met at Bailey Park with a landscaper and discussed the potential of internal walkway paths, benches, lighting, tables, chairs, etc. to make the Park more inviting and accessible in hopes that it will get more use. Mr. Westerman would like the Board to decide what type of usage the Park can provide for as well as how the improvements are going to be funded. Mr. Penzine suggested that the organizations in Town be solicited to fund an area, as creating a Friends of Somers Parks may be a bit cumbersome to do. Mrs. Werney would prefer that Recreation Fees be used and the final product serve as a showcase and then Town groups can be approached for donations. There was some discussion regarding the amount of money to be used out of Recreation Fees for this project since that account hasn't increased in quite some time. Being considered is capping the cost at a certain percentage cap of the available Recreation Fees. The Board will look to discuss the project with a landscape architect to create a design plan as a starting point. Mr. Boniello and Mr. Westerman will reach out to some landscape architects to get an idea as to how much this might cost.

Program Registration Update – As of today, there are 224 campers registered for Day Camp, which is for students entering kindergarten through 5th grade. For those campers entering 6th through 8th grades, Tusker Trax registration will continue until May 25th. Arrangements have been made to provide a second bus, accommodating an additional 44 youngsters in each of the three Tusker Trax sessions. Prospective staff members are in the process of being interviewed. There is still a need for an Assistant Director for Tusker Trax, Divisions Heads for Day Camp, and male counselors for both programs.

Independence Day Celebration Update – It has been confirmed that the Independence Day Celebration will be held at the former Pepsi site on June 30th. The Lions are working with the Chamber of Commerce to organize the events of the day. Many more activities will be offered and the advertising will be different this year. For the first time, there will be a charge per car load to offset the cost of the fireworks.

MR. RALSTON'S COMMENTS

Mr. Ralston didn't have any additional comments.

BOARD COMMENTS

There were no Board comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 23rd at 6:30 p.m. in the Recreation Center in Van Tassell Park.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Parks & Recreation Board

cc: Parks & Recreation Board
Superintendent of Parks & Recreation
Town Board
Town Clerk