

# **Somers Parks & Recreation Board**

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**Kevin Westerman**  
Chairman



## **MEETING MINUTES** **January 28, 2019**

Chairman Westerman opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

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

John Zattola was absent.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Steve Ralston was also present.

New Board member Chris McCormack was introduced and welcomed.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no members of public present.

### **MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mrs. Sanz to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2018, meeting. Mr. Penzine seconded the motion. All were in favor.

### **MR. RALSTON'S REPORT**

Thanks to the generosity of Sebastian Capital, the Independence Day Celebration again will be held at the former Pepsi site, on June 29<sup>th</sup> this year.

The East Coast Panthers will be sponsoring a Winter Basketball Clinic during the winter break in February. Twenty percent of the gross fees will be given to the Town.

Mr. Ralston recently learned that Town campers will not be able to use the Somers High School gym for their summer program, because of construction that will be ongoing. In previous years, campers used the gym on rainy days. Discussions with the School District will be held to see if an alternative location can be arranged.

Mrs. Werney asked about the meeting with the New York State DEC regarding West Somers Park Pond. There were some concerns over the condition of the pond. The situation is being researched further.

Mrs. Werney also asked about replacing the split rail fencing in Reis Park. Mr. Ralston intends to have it replaced in the in the spring.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Operation of Concession Stand RFP Review** – Only one RFP response was submitted to operate the concession stand, which was provided by last year's leasee, O'Neill's Concessions. The Board members offered that the proposed changes and additions to the menu included with the bid response were improvements from previous years. A recommendation will be made to the Town Board to accept their proposal.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Parks Master Plan Review Update** – Mr. Ralston is still waiting on the landscape design for Bailey Park from Landscape Concepts. It is expected to be received before the Board's February meeting.

Mr. Penzine reported that the Lions, Leos and sports coaches are on board to assist with placing millings on the Reis Park Fitness Trail. The parks staff has removed the fitness stations and is in the process of having the roots and tripping obstructions addressed. Mrs. Werney reminded all of her opposition to the removal of the 3<sup>rd</sup> trail, asserting that it is a natural trail that should be cleaned up and kept that way. Lack of use and difficulty accessing that trail to allow needed refurbishment were factors in the decision to remove the trail.

Both Mr. Papalia and Mr. Ralston met at Koegel Park. In the spring, updates will be made to the picnic tables in the picnic grove and signs in the parking area. While conducting required weekly walks in the Park, the Park Foreman will be maintaining the trail blazing. The parks staff has removed the bat houses and is in the process of doing some cleanup.

The Board discussed the pending land swap which, if approved, would add 11 acres of land, behind the Reis Park tennis courts and contiguous to Reis Park. All are encouraged to start thinking about how the Town can best use these 11 acres, which must also be made available to County residents. Whatever is done will likely require significant funding and there are innumerable options and approaches to consider. Mr. Krug indicated that it would be helpful to have a map of the area. Mr. Ralston will forward a copy of it to all members.

Unfortunately, the local Scout who committed to clearing and creating a picnic area behind the flagpole and towards the soccer fields in Van Tassell Park, has aged out and is now ineligible to complete his Eagle Scout program. Mrs. Sanz said that Somers Troop 376 will offer this opportunity to another scout at their next meeting.

**Publicity Update** – It is expected, that as improvements progress, Mr. Ralston will provide The Somers Record with highlights of those park improvements in late March or early April.

**Facility/Field Use Application Release Update** – Mr. Ralston and Mr. Westerman are working on recommendations to the Risk Management Committee to amend the language for the facility/field use release applications.

## **MR. RALSTON'S COMMENTS**

Mr. Ralston had no comments this evening.

## **BOARD COMMENTS**

Quite some time ago, there was discussion about putting up a butler building in Reis Park to store the items currently housed in some of the outbuildings at the Wright-Reis Homestead. At the request of the Historic Properties Board Chairman, Mr. Westerman asked that Mr. Ralston put this item on the agenda of the February meeting for further discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. and the next meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> 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