

Somers Parks & Recreation Board

PO Box 46 Somers, New York 10589

OFF: (914)-232-8441

FAX: (914)-232-8548

Kevin Westerman
Chairman



MEETING MINUTES **May 22, 2019**

Vice Chairman Penzine opened the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

The members present were: Jim Boniello, Chris McCormack, Don Penzine, Michele Sanz, and John Zattola.

Stephen Krug, John Papalia, Michele Werney and Kevin Westerman were absent.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Steve Ralston, as well as Town Councilman Rich Clinchy were also present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

40-year residents, Joanne and Jim Jantos, were in attendance. Mrs. Jantos expressed her dismay over the use schedule for the tennis courts. She and some other Town residents recently attempted to play tennis, but no courts were available. Tennis lessons were occupying one court, and the Town tennis team was playing on four courts, with one left open as a buffer for them. Ms. Jantos doesn't understand why one court needs to be left unoccupied, and feels that one court should always be left open for the residents at all times. The courts are open from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily and the schedule of availability is on the website. Moving forward, the Parks and Recreation Department will be mindful and conscientious to try to leave a court open for the public whenever possible.

Mrs. Jantos also wanted to know what the Town gets in exchange for allowing the school tennis teams to use the courts. Mr. Ralston responded that there has always been a cooperative effort between the Town and the School District. The Parks and Recreation Department uses the schools for their after-school programs as well as a rainy-day site for the summer camp. In addition to the schools using the tennis courts, they also use the baseball and softball fields.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Sanz to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2019 meeting. Mr. McCormack seconded the motion. All were in favor.

MR. RALSTON'S REPORT

There were no questions regarding Mr. Ralston's Report.

NEW BUSINESS

Dog Park Discussion – Mr. Ralston has been dialoguing with a resident concerning the Dog Park. Some of the items discussed have been addressed in the past and a new shade canopy should be delivered by the end of the week. An invitation was extended for the gentleman to attend this evening's meeting. He did not attend, however.

Tennis Court Rules Review – This item was covered under Public Comment.

Parks Foundation – In an effort to get some small projects completed, Councilman Clinchy suggested the creation of a Parks Foundation, as the Library did. Mr. Penzine indicated the idea has been discussed in the past and it is not an easy endeavor to accomplish without a dedicated commitment. Mr. Ralston said Westchester Parks and Recreation has a Friends of Westchester Parks and could assist an established Foundation for a fee.

OLD BUSINESS

Parks Master Plan Review Update – Mr. Westerman was finally able to connect with Landscape Concepts regarding a landscape design for Bailey Park. Landscape Concepts again stated that they would submit a design, but it was determined that, because so many months had passed from the original deadline, that we would take a step back and reconsider our approach. Mr. Penzine has been in contact with a landscaper about taking over this project. This person is from Stamford, though he is the son-in-law of a Somers resident. He has spoken with Mr. Ralston on the phone about it and they will make arrangements to meet in the near future. This is an opportune time, as sidewalks are now being installed around part of the exterior of Bailey Park.

Park Projects and Maintenance Update – Mr. Penzine has made arrangements to have the Lions and the Leos spread millings on two of the fitness trails in Reis Park. The third trail will be left natural. Mr. Ralston will make arrangements in a month or so to schedule the work.

Summer Camps Update – As of this afternoon, there are 303 youngsters registered for Day Camp, which is 29 less than at this same time last year. All staff has been hired. There are also some pending scholarships.

Session 1 of the Tusker Trax program has 62 registered, the 2nd and 3rd sessions are full. Female counselors are still needed.

Angle Fly Preserve Conservation Easement Modification Update – The latest update on the Conservation Easement Modification is that the Town must review it and then let DEC know whether it is correct. The modification will be published in the DEC Environmental News Bulletin for public comment for 30 days. After that point, the modification can take effect. As per Town Attorney Roland Baroni, on March 29th, there is no update. Mrs. Schirmer will request an update.

MR. RALSTON'S COMMENTS

Mr. Ralston had no comments.

BOARD COMMENTS

None of the Board members had any comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. and the next meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 26th 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