

Somers Parks & Recreation Board

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Kevin Westerman
Chairman



MEETING MINUTES **January 27, 2021**

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

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

Stephen Krug and John Zattola were absent.

Councilman Tom Garrity and Parks and Recreation Superintendent Steve Ralston were also present.

The meeting was held via Zoom.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Penzine to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2020 monthly meeting as submitted. Mr. McCormack seconded the motion. All were in favor.

MR. RALSTON'S REPORT

There were no questions or comments about Mr. Ralston's report.

NEW BUSINESS

2021 Department Programs Discussion – Andrew Johnson met with the Health Department concerning re-opening guidelines. Day Camp and other programs should be able to happen in some form this summer based on the current guidelines.

OLD BUSINESS

Bailey Park Project Review – Mrs. Rivera returned this evening and provided the members with an updated color rendition, pictures of paver options and costs. Everyone was still in agreeance that the patio still needs to be smaller and that size would be more than adequate to meet the needs, while still maintaining a natural park, not one overwhelmed by concrete.

The landscaping plan has been expanded which leaves a nice buffer from Route 100. Ideally, whatever is planted should look good, require low maintenance, and be deer resistant. The natural stone pathway to the shopping center parking lot has to be removed, as all of it is not on Town property and walking through that area is not encouraged. All agreed the three smaller patios are fine as proposed. It is understood that some tree work will have to be done as part of the project, but all would like to have this confirmed by a professional arborist, as safety is a priority. The different types of patios available were discussed and they have a one-year warranty, but Mrs. Rivera is willing to give a longer warranty. She will provide quotes for a patio made of big Cambridge pavers laid in stone dust with a surrounding edge, and bluestone laid in concrete, with a surrounding edge of brick shaped grey. Everyone liked the red, natural, earth tone pavers. The same pavers will be used for the walkway and smaller patios, but they will not have an edge. Mr. Ralston asked if the park staff could excavate and backfill in an effort to save money and Mrs. Rivera had no issue with that. Mrs. Rivera will return to the February monthly meeting with the requested updates. In the meantime, she will make arrangements for an arborist to meet at Bailey Park with her, Mr. Ralston and Mr. Westerman. Thanks were extended to Mrs. Rivera for the progress she made on the plan which has thrilled everyone. Thanks, were also extended to Mr. Boniello for sharing his expertise on this project.

Reis Playground Project Review – Mr. Penzine complimented Mr. Johnson and Mr. Ralston for the background research they did and the ideas they shared about the project. A review and discussion of the proposals took place and the sub-committee made a decision as to the piece they would recommend. It is larger than what is currently in place, has more climbing and swinging opportunities, some extra amenities, and is an improvement over the other option. It is understood that no playground equipment will last forever, but this option is the best choice. The cost is approximately \$150,000 and will be paid for out of Recreation Fees. The Parks staff will remove the existing piece in mid-February and will also do the site and prep work for the new piece in March, which will save money. The metal scrap is expected to be sold, which will defray some of the costs. A motion was made by Mr. Papalia and seconded by Mrs. Werney to recommend the purchase of the proposed playground equipment for Reis Park. All were in favor. This recommendation will be presented to the Town Board.

MR. RALSTON'S COMMENTS

Mr. Ralston had no further comments.

BOARD COMMENTS

A request has been made by a user of the Dog Park to have access to water and lights installed on the Highway Department so it can be used after dark. Mrs. Werney asked Mr. Ralston to comment on this. When the Park was created, there was much review and discussion by previous Parks and Recreation Board members and only so many amenities could be provided. Bringing water to the site would be very costly. Even if the Highway Department agreed to installing lighting on their building, it would only light the Park itself, not the parking area and pathway. The Town police patrol the Dog Park during the day and it is uncertain if they would have the manpower to do so in the dark.

Mr. Westerman asked about North East Special Recreation. It is a consortium of nine Towns in the northeastern part of the County that offers recreation for the developmentally and

physically disabled residents in Somers, as the Town doesn't have the resources needed to offer these programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. and the next meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 24th at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Parks and Recreation Board

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