

Somers Parks & Recreation Board

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Kevin Westerman
Chairman



MEETING MINUTES **June 23, 2021**

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

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

Jim Boniello, Stephen Krug, and Michele Werney were absent.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Steve Ralston was 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 May 26, 2021, meeting as submitted. Mrs. Sanz seconded the motion. All were in favor.

MR. RALSTON'S REPORT

This morning, Mr. Ralston met with resident Theresa Chang and one tennis court was fully lined and a net put up to allow for pickleball play at any time on a first-come, first-served basis for an hour.

Mr. Penzine asked about Mr. Ralston working with the Somers Historical Society and Lions Club on summer concerts. Mr. Ralston explained that some of the neighboring towns offer their concerts with co-sponsors. He liked the idea and approached the Somers Historical Society and the Lions Club. Mr. Ralston has still not heard back from the Lions Club, but Grace Zimmerman of the Historical Society liked the idea and was particularly interested in having local talent play as part of the summer concert series. This is still a work in progress. Mr. Penzine suggested that the gentleman who writes the weekly column in The Somers Record and also a musician be contacted.

NEW BUSINESS

Eagle Scout Candidate Presentation – A Scout was supposed to present his Eagle Scout project to the Board this evening but he never joined the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Day Camp Updates – As of today, 124 campers have been registered. Mr. Ralston was happy to announce that as a result of the Governor lifting restrictions yesterday, they have been informed by the County Health Department that they are now required to follow only the rules that were in effect prior to the pandemic. This change will make for a much more pleasant camp experience. Registration ended today, so Andrew Johnson can organize all the necessary paperwork to open camp on Monday morning. Sufficient staff has been hired to accommodate the number of campers registered, however there is still room in some groups to add campers. After the first couple days of camp, registration will be opened to those groups that have capacity to add campers based on the available staff and the required camper to staff ratio of 12 to 1. There is still a protocol to follow if someone comes down with COVID and some of the rules that were supposed to be followed will continue, as they make sense.

Bailey Park Project Update – Mr. Ralston reported that Mr. Westerman presented to the Town Board at their June 10th meeting regarding the Bailey Park project. The Town Board unanimously approved proceeding with the project. It has been forwarded to the Architectural Review Board for their review and comment. Mr. Westerman will attend their meeting tomorrow evening to present the plans and answer questions that the ARB may have. Although the project will be funded by Rec Fees, it was suggested that perhaps some fundraising be done, for example, allowing people to buy a paver. There may also be some grants to offset the project. Mary Ann Rivera, of Landscape Concepts has begun working on the bid specifications. Mr. Boniello will be asked to review them before they are finalized.

COVID Guidelines Update – As a result of the restrictions being lifted by the Governor, the Westchester County Department of Health is leaving the restrictions regarding parks, open space and sports up to the municipalities. It has been tough to enforce the rules and would be much easier if all were lifted.

MR. RALSTON'S COMMENTS

Mr. Ralston had no additional comments.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Papalia asked about offering summer movies in Reis Park. Unfortunately, there is no money in the budget for this summer, but will definitely be considered for next year. Sponsors might be the way to go with the movies as well. The Chamber of Commerce generally offers a movie in August in front of the pony league field. Hopefully they will be doing that again.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. and the next meeting will take place on Wednesday, July 21st 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