

Somers Parks & Recreation Board

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Kevin Westerman
Chairman



MEETING MINUTES **September 28, 2022**

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

The members present were: Stephen Krug; Chris McCormack; John Papalia; Don Penzine; Janelle Robbins; Michele Sanz; and Kevin Westerman.

Jim Boniello and John Zattola were absent.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mrs. Sanz to approve the minutes of July 27, 2022 meeting as submitted. Mr. Penzine seconded the motion. All were in favor.

MR. RALSTON'S REPORT

The irrigation systems have been able to keep the upper Reis and Van Tassell soccer fields in pretty good shape but, unfortunately, due to the significant lack of rain, all other grass areas on the playing fields are in poor condition. The fields will be monitored for early closings if there is further deterioration. The existing turf covers are very helpful, so perhaps additional ones can be purchased.

Holiday themed programs will once again be offered under the pavilion. The flyer will be available soon.

Discussions are in process with the SYSO as although their registration numbers are going down, they are requesting more field use. In addition, there has to be a balance as to the number of residents and non-residents on teams.

NEW BUSINESS

2023 Budget Review

All members received a copy of the 2023 proposed budget prepared by Mr. Ralston as well as the cover letter from the Supervisor, which accompanied the request for budget preparation. The budget proposal was reviewed and discussed. There has been consistency in terms of spending and it is hoped that some of the larger purchases can be made this year. Three budget lines that are underfunded are tree work, security and Angle Fly Preserve. As a result of recommendations made by the Tree Board, some work has to be done in terms of removal and some replanting. Next week a representative of Doyle Security will make recommendations for external video security systems; and depending on what is ultimately done at Angle Fly, including use of the Reynolds House, some adjustments to the budget may have to be made. There was also an explanation of how the salaries in the contract work as some of the staff have maxed out from step increases. In addition, the employees have been working without a contract, so cost of living increases haven't been applied.

A motion was made by Mr. Penzine and seconded by Mrs. Sanz to submit the 2023 proposed budget as prepared by Mr. Ralston. All were in favor. As soon as Mr. Ralston knows when the budget hearing will be, he will let everyone know.

OLD BUSINESS

Summer and Fall Programs Review

Day Camp, under the direction of newly hired full-time employee Farah Cleary worked out well. She served as the Day Camp Director and it was great to have a Nurse again. A total registration number of about 200 campers seems to be the new norm. That number of campers is quite manageable. Thanks were extended to the Somers Police for overseeing traffic and the Somers Central School district for allowing use of the schools on rainy days, which was thankfully was only twice over the six weeks of camp.

Registration for fall after school programs began on August 31st. There are fewer offerings, but almost all are full. The programs are once again able to be held at the schools.

Bailey Park Project Update

Mr. Ralston and Mr. Westerman will speak to Mr. Boniello regarding the final drawing of the upgrades being proposed for Bailey Park, so it can be reviewed one more time by the Parks and Recreation Board, and presented to the Town Board.

MR. RALSTON'S COMMENTS

Mr. Ralston thanked the Board for their continued support, especially when it comes to supporting his budget preparations.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Krug wondered if there could be a dedicated pickle ball court. Mr. Ralston said that it will not be able to happen until the school tennis teams are no longer using the courts in Reis Park for practice and games, or when the swap of land takes place.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. and the next meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 26th 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