



Board of Parks & Recreation

Meeting Minutes

July 29, 2009

Please be advised that these minutes are in DRAFT form and will not become "Public Record" until they are formally approved by the Board of Parks and Recreation at their next regularly scheduled meeting planned for September 30, 2009.

Board Attendees: Will Dunster, Rick Capozza, John Craine, Catherine Weisenburger, Ric Wellington, Robert Oca, Scott Johnson and Winston Robinson

Not Attending: Nancy Caplan

Ex-Officio Attendees: None

Staff Attendees: Joseph Siciliano, Tom Greco and Fred Walters

Guest Attendees: Rob Sterling and Nancy Chapin

I. Meeting called to order at 7:00 P.M.

II. **Motion made, seconded, and approved to accept the Minutes of the June 24, 2009, 8-0-0.**

III. **Monthly Topic**

Fiscal Year Summary, Tom Greco

Mr. Greco presented the (approximately 350) invalid park passes that have been confiscated; made possible by the new hologram and scanning process.

Mr. Greco distributed and reviewed the 2008-2009 financial results. Revenues are \$191,000 in excess of budget. The operating variance is \$878,000, which includes the lost positions from February. The total variance is approximately \$1,000,000 favorable.

Mr. Greco reported the golf course suffered from bad weather, there has been a realignment of priorities including the cancelation of some capital projects.

Mr. Greco also distributed and reviewed the list of capital projects.

Director's Report, Joe Siciliano

Mr. Siciliano reported the department has lost a full time equivalent of 12 employees during the layoff process. By September of 2009, nine employees will have retired; the breakdown is as follows:

- 3-Park Gardeners
- Marine and Facilities Operations Foreman
- Marine Maintenance Mechanic
- Tree Foreman
- Park Equipment Supervisor
- Head Custodian – EGCC
- Superintendent of Marine and Facility Operations

Mr. Siciliano reported he will review the goals of the restructuring plan and analyze the jobs that need to be filled and work to complete the approval process in a timely manner. There is a lot of pressure not to fill as many positions as possible.

Mr. Siciliano added he is in receipt of a memo from the BET Chairman stating the HR Committee of the BET would like to participate in the replacement process for vacant positions. Mr. Siciliano expressed his concerns about their involvement in the process, which he feels may delay filling the positions. Mr. Siciliano stated he will update the Board in September on the progress.

Mr. Siciliano compared the first 26 days of July 2009 to the first 26 days of July 2008. 458 more ferry tickets and 359 additional day passes were sold in 2009. With the new policy changes, the percentage of day passes used compared to the attendance numbers increased by 1.5%. Mr. Siciliano stated there will be a re-evaluation of the policy.

Mr. Siciliano reported there are a significant amount of parted seams on the turf at field #7 at G.H.S. There have been discussions with the manufacturer and the Board of Education; a meeting has been scheduled with all involved to determine how to proceed with this issue. There is an estimated a minimum of \$25,000 worth of repairs.

Mr. Siciliano distributed the list of special events through October 2009.

Mr. Siciliano announced Fred Walters will be retiring at the end of August. Mr. Siciliano thanked him for his many years of service.

Chairman's Report, Will Dunster

Mr. Dunster reported there have been some usage issues with field renters using the equipment at the High School. The High School has new nets; however field renters are not permitted to use them.

Mr. Siciliano reviewed the guidelines for use of the high school fields. Mr. Siciliano added the High school fields are in the Board of Education's inventory, therefore they have primary use.

Mr. Dunster reported he sent out some general information on the proposed Greenwich Parks Alliance for Board Members to review. Mr. Dunster suggested the Board review the information and be prepared to discuss at the September meeting; at the time the proposal was made to the Board, there was no quorum.

Mr. Dunster announced the Boundless playground is almost complete. Mr. Siciliano added there are some housekeeping items to be completed in addition to the pergola.

IV. Committee Reports

Golf Course, Winston Robinson

Mr. Robinson reported the golf course has experienced significant rain for the months of May and June.

Mr. Robinson stated 148 players participated in the Men's Town Tournament; the tournament had great media coverage.

The Women's Tournament had 48 participants.

Mr. Robinson announced the junior golf tournament is scheduled for August 18th.

Greenwich Point Signage, Catherine Weisenburger

Ms. Weisenburger reported she is the liaison to the Friends of Greenwich Point on the signage project. They conducted an analysis of the existing signs and grouped them into the following sections:

- Parks and Recreation
- Traffic and Safety
- Shellfish

Ms. Weisenburger distributed a listing of signs in the category of Parks and Recreation. The goal is to reduce, replace and eliminate some signs. Ms. Weisenburger distributed suggested designs for new signs. The Friends of Greenwich Point hope to begin the project in the fall.

Ms. Weisenburger reported the Friends of Greenwich Point has eight benches they would like to replace. There are people who would like to donate memorial benches.

Mr. Siciliano added this may be an opportunity for those on the bench wait list to donate, if they are still interested.

Waterways Management Study, John Craine

Mr. Craine reported the Waterways Management Study is underway. The project is currently in the public input gatherings phase. Four public meetings were scheduled to solicit feedback from residents. The final public meeting will be held July 30th, at 7:00 pm at the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center and will cover the Greenwich Cove and Tomac Cove.

Recreation, Rick Capozza

Mr. Capozza reported the following:

All camps are in full swing.

The adult softball program is behind schedule due to inclement weather and the loss of Tueffel field.

The skating rink schedule for the 2009-2010 season has gone out. The Rink is scheduled to open September 8th.

The free Wednesday night concerts have been a hit!

RTM, Ric Wellington

Mr. Wellington reported the RTM did not meet in July, their next meeting will be September 21st.

Greenwich Civic Center, Ric Wellington

Mr. Wellington stated the committee did not meet; they have no scheduled meetings at this time.

CORRFANS, Ric Wellington

Mr. Wellington announced the committee has not met since their initial meeting 6 months ago.

Byram Pool Committee, Ric Wellington

Mr. Wellington reported the committee has not met.

Turf Committee, Scott Johnson

Mr. Johnson reported the Turf Committee did not meet in July. The RFP to test the fields has gone out. Mr. Johnson stated he will find out what stage of the process the RFP is in and move it along.

VI. Unfinished Business

Mr. Dunster reported the Greenwich High School football team will not be holding their awards ceremony at the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center due to the uncertainty of the building.

VII. New Business

Mr. Dunster announced there will be no Board Meeting in August.

VIII. Public Comment

IX. Meeting adjourned 7:50 pm.