

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
April 12, 2022

PRESENT: Chairman J. Schettino, Commissioners J. Mendez and G. Maher, R. Stopkoski, C. Passante arrived 6 minutes after meeting was called to order

Absent: M. Sutyla, R. Karcich.

Also present: R. Potter

Guests: youth organizations

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Minutes of March 8, 2022:

- A motion was made by R. Stopkoski, seconded by G. Maher to table the minutes of March 1, 2022 due to members not being present. The motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence: None

Old Business:

Field Schedule:

- Delayed scheduling meeting to allow organizations to get actual schedule requests in to park & rec.
- All organizations were asked to submit certificates of insurance asap if not already done.
- Fields are in good shape.
- Remind coaches about adhering to rain policy to ensure fields stay in good shape.
- A motion was made by R. Stopkoski, seconded by G. Maher to approve all scholastic schedules. The motion carried unanimously.
- A motion was made by R. Stopkoski, seconded by J. Mendez to approve all game schedules as noted and any conflicts on IRRC baseball will be approved by R. Potter. The motion was amended by R. Stopkoski and seconded by J. Mendez to include all fields except IRRC baseball.
- A motion was made by G. Maher, seconded by J. Mendez to give R. Potter the authority to approve the schedules as they are worked out among the parties that are conflicting. The motion carried unanimously.
- A motion was made by R. Stopkoski, seconded by J. Mendez to give R. Potter the authority to approve all practice schedules. The motion was approved unanimously
- R. Potter had to make an exception this year to allow practices on the turf field for Rugby. We are returning to system of no practices on the turf field with the exception of scholastic sports.

Naming the IRRC baseball field:

- No decision was made regarding the naming of the IRRC baseball field.

- People are welcome to submit in writing if they are in favor or against the naming of IRRC Baseball.
- There were 14 people present at the meeting, 9 people at the meeting were in favor, 1 was against, 4 people abstained from voting.
- Carol Walter spoke in favor of naming field for Willie Fritz.
- Jane Scully Welch also spoke in favor and gave examples of other First Selectmen having articles named after them.
- Tom Welch also spoke in favor and gave reasons why.
- Keith Johnson was not in favor and gave reasons why.
- Mike Sutyla was not present but sent an email giving his opinion on the naming of any fields or destinations at Park & Rec locations. He believes a policy should be established first and criteria should limit dedications to people who are no longer living. He suggests a ball field at Morgan be named for Willie Fritz as he was First Selectman when we committed to the new high school and instrumental in the success of the varsity baseball program.
- There isn't a policy or procedure outlined in the Park & Rec Commission's manual for naming fields at this time.
- The Park & Rec Commission does not have final say; they make recommendations to the Town Council and the Town Council has final say.
- A motion was made by G Maher, seconded by J. Mendez to table the decision on the naming of IRRC Baseball as the commission has been attempting for the last year to address Park & Rec's policies and procedures.

Report on the town's parks condition:

- Two of the three reports were completed.

Town Beach:

- DPW wants to put permanent posts in the ground for volleyball net.
- Re-striping beach parking lot cannot be dictated by Park & rec. This needs to be done by DPW and is covered under their budget and their schedule. DPW is aware this work needs to be done.
- There 8 huge logs on the beach that need to be removed by DPW along with a telephone pole that fell.
- The roof on the pavilion has been repaired.
- A motion for a recess was made at 7:34p.m. by R. Stopkoski, seconded by J. Mendez. The motion passed unanimously. Back in session at 7:36p.m.

Turf Field:

- Concession stand needs repainting and various rotted wood spots repaired.
- Outlet in front of concession stand needs a new cover plate. This should be addressed immediately.
- Concession stand window needs to be re-caulked.
- Field Rules sign needs to be replaced as it is cracked and could cut someone.
- Two by fours on the fence are broken and need to be replaced.
- Some of the fence sections behind the bleachers are missing top rails.

- Away and Home bench covers have broken panels that need to be replaced.
- Chain link fence needs to be secured in various sections around the turf field. Park & Rec has a fence repair company come in every spring to evaluate and repair anything that needs to be done.
- Broken drainage covers on the turf have been replaced with plywood until replacements arrive.
- Turf storage garage needs miscellaneous repairs.

IRRC Field 3

- DPW storage garage in need of various repairs and repainting

IRRC Baseball Field

- Announcers booth stairs are missing, some bleachers and windows are damaged.

IRRC Playground

- Needs to be mulched
- Shed missing shingles and trim
- Gazebo missing shingles and some rotted wood needs to be repaired

IRRC Basketball Court:

- Block wall needs some top blocks repaired

IRRC Field 1

- Cement holding stair railing is cracked and railing is not secured.

A motion was made by R. Stopkoski, seconded by C. Passante to table the remainder of the discussion of the report to allow M. Sutyla and R. Karcich to complete their inspection of the Ethel Peters' complex

- Harry Swaun pavilion, skate park and video surveillance updates and Hesers' Pond will be covered under Director's Report

Review of Policies and Procedures:

- G. Maher and C. Passante were a subcommittee that were working on fees of facilities and fields.
- Chairman asked each commissioner to submit to the subcommittee suggestions on changes or additions to policies and procedures so they can organize them and bring them to the May 3rd commission meeting to act on them.
- A motion was made by G. Maher seconded by C. Passante to expand the subcommittee by 1 person. The motion carried unanimously.
- Chairman asked someone to volunteer to be an addition and R. Stopkoski offered to be a part of the committee.
- Review of policies and procedures to be included on May 3rd meeting agenda.

Beach Concession Stand Update:

- No interest has been shown at this time to run the concession stand.
- The beach concession cannot be run as a business but is a service to beach goers due to inclement weather, short season, etc.

- A motion was made by J. Mendez, seconded by R. Stopkoski to authorize the commission chairman to write a letter to the Town Manager to recommend that no fee be charged and no utilities be charged except for propane and instead of going out to bid we put out a request for proposals to run the town beach concession stand. The motion carried unanimously.

No new business discussed due to the special meeting.

Director's Report:

- Harry Swaun pavilion landscaping and verbiage for plaque is being discussed at this time. Benches and picnic tables are on their way.
- Skate park is safe and operational but some caulking needs to be done. DPW reported that glass and needles, etc. were found recently.
- Park and Rec Director makes an effort to inspect the park 3 or 4 times per week and last time he went, it was fairly clean.
- Cameras at Indian River are up and running. Still waiting on cameras at the town beach and Ethel Peters' complex.
- Hesers' Pond is clean and looks good right now. The annual contract has been renewed with All Habitat.

A motion was made by J. Mendez, seconded by R. Stopkoski to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Wendy McDermott, Clerk