



# Gates Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting March 12, 2019



## Those in attendance:

Commissioners:	Rhoda Ride	Steve Murphy
	Brom Bianchi	John Unson
	Rob Keister	Greg Westbrook
Director:	Dan Hook	
Liaison:	Chris DiPonzio	
Absent:	Eileen Andrews	
Guest:	Cosmo Giunta - Town Supervisor	

The meeting was called to order promptly at 6:30 PM by Rhoda Ride.

The minutes from the January meeting were reviewed (the February meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.) A motion was made by Greg Westbrook and seconded by Steve Murphy, to accept the January minutes. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes as written.

## Financial Report:

The financial reports were reviewed. John Unson made a request the column that includes the percentages spent per budget line be added back into this report for the future. Dan Hook will add this in for the upcoming reports. A motion was made by Rob Keister to accept the financial report and seconded by John Unson. The vote was unanimous to accept this report.

## Correspondence:

There was no correspondence shared at this time.

## Evaluation of Past Programs:

The evaluation sheets of the past programs were reviewed. The following input was shared:

- Rhoda Ride commented the "Hats Off to Dr. Seuss" program was very good, well attended and appeared to be a very popular event. Dan Hook added it was a good utilization of the facilities and was a good program to run during the winter. Consideration will be given as to repeating this program for next year, or possibly come up with a new program theme.
- Greg Westbrook mentioned the suggestion made on the evaluation sheet for the Maple Tree Inn trip related to having plastic syrup bottles over glass ones was very good and should be considered.
- Brom Bianchi inquired about the number of passengers that can comfortably fit into the Department van when used on these trips. Dan Hook said the capacity was 14, and if more room was needed, a partnership with another recreation department was made, such as Hilton/Parma.
- John Unson raised a question about the impact the proposed construction projects at the school district will have on the GAP program? Discussion followed related to adjustments that will be considered to accommodate these changes. Dan Hook mentioned the possible idea of hosting the GAP program at the community center. Discussion about security concerns, monitoring pick-up and drop-off of students, etc. took place. Many ideas were shared and discussed. Dan mentioned the GCSB buses would be drop students off at the center if the program would be housed here.

## Programs in Progress:

Everyone reviewed the listing and no further discussion took place.

## Old Business/New Business:

The first item to be discussed was the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt and the choice of prizes for participants. An extensive discussion of the pros/cons of each gift item, along with safety concerns, took place related to the options selected for consideration. After this extensive discussion, a motion was made by Brom Bianchi and seconded by Steve Murphy that plush bunnies be the gift item for the younger children, and squishy yo-yos be the selection for the older children. There will also be gift cards to local activity centers for the children who collect the gold eggs. Dan will order this items to make sure they are here for the event. This event will be held at TSE on Saturday, April 20 at 10AM. Commissioners who will be helping were asked to be there by 9:30AM.

The second item to be discussed was the proposal of adding an indoor gym or play area to the community center. Information was distributed to the Commissioners for their review. An extensive discussion took place on this agenda item, both pro and con. The following listing is highlights of this extensive discussion.

- The Commission asked for clarification of the exact area size where this gym would be placed. The area is approximately 32' X 20' X 8'.
- Concerns about required flooring were raised. Some of the company choices include flooring (rubber mat type) and others would be an additional charge.

- Budgetary concerns were raised on the large amount of money proposed for this project and the fact that it would target such a narrow group of people in our community. The concerns that these monies could be utilized to support many other projects that could positively affect a larger number of community people was discussed. Many points of view were shared and the discussion was extensive.
- Many questions were raised about safety concerns, liability and responsibility of cleaning the equipment. Extensive discussion took place related to these concerns with many points of view shared.
- The suggestion of doing more research on the costs, liabilities, ongoing maintenance and repair, safety issues and staffing was made related to this project. Again, after extensive discussion, the decision to table this proposal was made. Over the next few months, Dan Hoock will collect information on the above mentioned concerns, and share them with the Commission. At a later date, this topic will be brought to the floor again for discussion and decision. This will be done prior to budgetary planning for 2020.
- The suggestion was made by Town Supervisor Guinta that carpet tiles be installed as a temporary covering for the cement floor that is currently exposed until a decision is made related to the indoor gym. All agreed this was a good solution to address this area for now.

The next item to be discussed was an overview, and status of, the town parks. Highlights of this discussion are as follows:

\* A review of the Commission assignments to the parks was given. It is as follows:

Park Assignments:	Westgate Park:	Greg Westbrooke & Steve Murphy
	Memorial Park:	Rhoda Ride & Chris DiPonzio
	Wegman Rd.Park:	Rob Keister
	Gates Town Park:	Brom Bianchi & Greg Westbrook
	Lions Park:	Eileen Andrews & John Unson

- A visit will be made to each park by Dan Hoock and the Commissioners to evaluate and give input on improvements needed.
- Dan Hoock will email everyone the listing put together from last year's visits and indicate what tasks were addressed and what still needs to be done.
- Concerns were raised about the cleanliness/maintenance of the bathrooms at all the parks, along with much needed upgrading.
- Concerns were raised about upgrading the kitchen facilities and getting better appliances at each of the kitchens.
- It was mentioned that if improvements were made at each of the park facilities, that more revenue might come to the town because rentals would be up and more could be charged.
- A specific concern was raised related to the pavilion at Wegman Rd. Park and the poor condition it is in. This could be dangerous and needs to be addressed. A brief discussion followed, with suggestions of rebuilding this structure and possibly creating a new and improved area for use. These will all be considered in the near future.
- Dan Hoock will have a new listing available for review by the Commissioners for the next meeting of what park projects would be considered for this year.
- Dan Hoock mentioned that several Boy Scout projects have been brought to his attention, and most of these projects involve improvements to be made in the parks. He will have more information available soon on what these projects will encompass once they are finalized.
- The suggestion was made by Rhoda Ride that if the Commissioners have an opportunity to check other parks in neighboring towns that it would be a good way to collect information for improvements that could be done to our town parks.

The next item to be discussed was the change of date for the Volunteer reception. The new date will be Saturday, May 4 at 9:30AM. Decisions on menu and gifts will be discussed at the April Commission meeting.

The next item to be discussed was the status of the First Responders Park. Rhoda Ride gave a brief overview of how this project was proposed to the Commission two years ago, and the Commission supported it, but since that time, nothing has been brought back to the table related to the progress, or status of this project. Chris DiPonzio shared the people who originally proposed this idea are no longer involved in this project, but he will try and make contact with the new leaders and report back at our April meeting.

The next item to be discussed was a concern raised by Rob Keister related to the movie license owned by the Department, and the selection of movies made to be shown. In the recent past, movies selected have been more than 50 years old, and would have a very limited appeal to the community. Discussion of what targeted audiences would be aimed for, how best to utilize the option to show movies with comfortable seating, and the current status of this program were made. Further discussion included concerns related to movie ratings (e.g. - "G" to "R" ratings,) the possibility of having a themed event to attract the community, and also the possibility of doing a survey to see if there is community interest. Dan Hoock will check to see the status of the movie license and report back at the April Commission meeting.

The last item to be discussed was the proposal to add a walking path between the Dunn Tower property and Memorial Park. Dan Hoock distributed an overhead map of the area with the proposed walk way location. Extensive discussion took place related to the pros/cons of this suggestion with several other ideas offered. More investigation and research is needed on this proposal before a decision is made. Town Supervisor Guinta will be meeting with the residents at Dunn Tower to discuss this proposal very soon. Once that meeting happens, this item will be brought back to the table for discussion. Additional suggestions also included talking with the German Foundation group related to property use, along with the Gates Police related to concerns of safety and monitoring of this area.

**Future Planning:**

Rhoda Ride opened this portion of the meeting by encouraging both the Commissioners and the Town Supervisor to share their thoughts, ideas and vision for our community in the future. The following is a listing of the highlights of this conversation:

- Improvements of our community parks to be upgraded and competitive with our neighboring towns.
- Utilize property given to the town to create areas of interest and use. This could include a dog park, or a small sitting area with benches.
- The improvement of the Department Highway facilities is a priority. This could include a move to a larger area as well as upgrading the overall facility.
- An idea suggested by Rhoda Ride was that a new facility be built to house our Town Hall and the Recreation & Parks Department (including a gym).

Many other thoughts were shared on these ideas. This will be an ongoing discussion point at upcoming meetings.

**Good of the Order:**

Chris DiPonzio: Shared that tickets for the upcoming production of "Guys & Dolls" are available for distribution. The production will be held on March 21, 22 & 23. Dan Hoock has the tickets for the free senior performance available tonight.

Steve Murphy: Thanked Cosmo Guinta for coming to our meeting tonight and sharing his thoughts and ideas. He also mentioned that he will be attending the upcoming state conference being held at Lake Placid.

Greg Westbrook: Thanked Valerie for bringing treats to tonight's meeting and also thanked Cosmo Guinta for attending the meeting tonight.

Brom Bianchi: Asked about the status of the property adjacent to the entrance of Town Park that is under investigation. Town Supervisor Guinta shared there is an ongoing litigation which he cannot discuss, but assured the Commission that the town is actively addressing this concern and hopefully it will come to a settlement soon.

Rob Keister: Shared his excitement related to an upcoming Boy Scout Jamboree that will be held at Town Park on the first weekend in May. This activity will involve about 100 Scouts and he will report back about the success of this event at a later meeting.

Dan Hoock: Shared the new brochure is at the printer and will be mailed out at the end of next week. He also mentioned that he and his family will be moving to a new home at the end of March.

Valerie Young: Shared that she was glad everyone enjoyed the snacks tonight.

Rhoda Ride: Thanked Cosmo Guinta for attending and participating in our Commission meeting tonight.

Cosmo Guinta: Thanked the Commission for the invitation to attend this meeting and the special treats. He also shared how proud he is to be part of this community, and that he hopes to see our town flourish and grow in the future.

John Unson: John had to leave prior to this portion of the meeting.

A motion was made by Rob Keister and seconded by Steve Murphy the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9 at 6:30 PM at the Recreation Conference room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Young  
Recording Secretary