



Gates Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting January 12, 2021



Those in attendance:

Commissioners:	Rhoda Ride	Brom Bianchi	Steve Murphy	Greg Westbrook
	Eileen Andrews	Rob Keister	John Unson	
Director:	Dan Hoock			
Town Board Liaison:	Chris DiPonzio			

This meeting was conducted via email. The meeting information was sent to each Commissioner on January 12, with the request that each respond back to Dan Hoock using the "reply all" key so everyone could see their input by January 17. These minutes are based on those replies. The format of these minutes will reflect the responses of those Commissioners who have given their input.

Review and approval of the December Commission meeting minutes:

[Approval of the December Commission meeting minutes:](#)

Approval: Eileen Andrews, Brom Bianchi, Steve Murphy, Greg Westbrook, Rhoda Ride, John Unson and Rob Keister

No approval: None

Abstention: None

Financial Report:

Dan Hoock reported the following highlights:

- * Almost all of the expenses for 2020 are reflected on the attached financial report.
- * Longevity pay is the reason that two of the salary categories appear to be more than 100%.
- * Some of the more expensive items purchased this past year included: \$3800 for tables for the annex; \$1100 for new cubbies for the rec. center; \$1000 for 3-sprayers to use for sanitizing; and additional monies were spent on new signage for two parks and miscellaneous playground replacement equipment .
- * For budget line 7140.485, \$23,000 was spent, which reflects about half the budgeted amount.

[A vote for the approval of the December Financial Report is as follows:](#)

Approval: Eileen Andrews, Brom Bianchi, Steve Murphy, Greg Westbrook, Rhoda Ride, John Unson and Rob Keister

No approval: None

Abstention: None

Correspondence:

Dan Hoock shared that he had received a very nice thank you note from Foodlink thanking the department for their 2020 partnership.

Input from Commissioners:

Eileen Andrews shared it a nice to receive a thank you note from Foodlink.

Rob Keister shared he was thankful we had partnered with Foodlink.

Programming:

Dan Hoock included a listing of the programs cancelled. This included: Trivia Night and Winter Recess Camp. Current program(s) running include: Dance class and virtual programs: Wacky Science, Cooking with Dan and GAP.

Input from Commissioners:

None at this time.

Old Business:

Dan Hoock listed an updated copy of the current offerings sponsored by the department. He also shared the department had received a \$500 grant from the Autism Council. These monies have not been designated yet and will probably be designated after in-person programming can resume.

Input from Commissioners:

Rob Keister shared that possibly the decision to spend this grant can wait until this programming is resumed.

New Business:

Dan Hoock shared the following highlights of proposed projects for 2021:

- * The 2021 Park Project list includes the following:

All Parks: Permanent garbage cans; wood chips for all playgrounds and redefine playground boundaries

Memorial Park: New park sign; outdoor bathroom renovation and shelter/foundation/concrete pad/overhang repair

Lions Park: Volleyball court, repurpose bocce area and new bulbs for tennis court lights

Wegman Rd.: New sandbox (possible Eagle Scout project); rebuild open pavilion and fix story walk posts

Westgate Park: Expansion of parking lot; pickle ball court and paint park benches

Input from Commissioners:

Rhoda Ride shared this was a very ambitious listing of park improvements and asked the following questions:

What is the extent of the renovations proposed for the bathrooms at Memorial Park?

What is the plan for rebuilding the open pavilion at Wegman Rd. Park?

Where is the land on which the parking at Westgate Park will be extended?

* **Easter Egg Hunt update:** Scheduled for Saturday, April 3. In lieu of holding one large event, the possibility of holding up to three smaller events at various parks might be a better choice. This would give a more "neighborhood" feel. Pre-registration would be required for the smaller events to prevent over crowding. Open to all suggestions of other options to consider for this event.

Input from Commissioners:

Eileen Andrews: I plan on helping with this event. I like the idea of smaller options also.

* **Summer Celebration update:** Scheduled for Saturday, August 14. Although we're not sure this event will come to fruition, Dan would like to start making contact with the outside groups we usually hire (fireworks, audio, etc.) just to lay the ground work.

Input from Commissioners:

Brom Bianchi: It will be another very different and challenging year. Parks and outdoor activities seem to be a hot button for many. I believe large group gatherings such as celebrations should be reconsidered again this year as a pass.

* **Marketing Strategies:** Dan Hoock shared the brochures will not be mailed out to the community as a cost savings option. The department program options will be posted on line. Hopefully, a small number of printed brochures will be made available to get to interested parties, word-of-mouth sharing of upcoming activities would be helpful, and Rhoda Ride made the suggestion that some lawn signs could be printed up to advertise programming too. Any input on these options is welcomed.

Input from Commissioners:

John Unson, Brom Bianchi, Greg Westbrook and Steve Murphy all shared their support of the items Dan has suggested.

Rob Keister supports the ideas for marketing but expressed concern about laws related to displaying signage.

* **Suggested programming options for 2021** - Dan Hocok listed the following options with full descriptors (please reference packet information for this information.) Program titles are as follows:

Parker's Great Escape	100 Days of Hope	Puzzle Swap	Cooking with Dan	AARP Driving
Do you want to find a snowman?	6-word memoirs	Munchkin Madness	MOVE!	Tax Preparation
Wacky Science	Kids Night Out kits	Full Day GAP	February Break Camp	
Getting Crafty with Cindy	Grab and Go lunches	Lunch Club	Grocery Shopping	
Snowshoe/Cross County Ski rentals	Tai Chi	Phone a friend	Winter Book Club	

Input from Commissioners:

Rhoda Ride, Eileen Andrews, Brom Bianchi, Steve Murphy, John Unson and Greg Westbrook all supported the suggestions made for the 2021 programming options. Rob Keister added possibly a pen pal program could be considered. He also mentioned his appreciation for the senior grocery shopping program offered by the department.

* **Election of Officers and Park Assignments for 2021:**

Input from Commissioners:

Eileen Andrews made a motion that all the officers remain the same for 2021 and that all park assignments remain the same also. Based on overall consensus listed with each Commissioner's email responses, this motion is passed.

Officers for 2021

Rhoda Ride - Chairperson
Greg Westbrook - Vice Chairperson
Eileen Andrews - Sunshine

Park Assignments:

Wegman Rd. - Rob Keister
Westgate Park - Greg Westbrook & Steve Murphy
Town Park - Brom Bianchi & Greg Westbrook
Lions Park - Eileen Andrew & John Unson
Memorial Park - Rhoda Ride & Chris DiPonzio

Good of the Order:

Steve Murphy: Please stay healthy....miss seeing everyone
Greg Westbrook: Hope everyone stays safe
Rhoda Ride: Please stay well!
Brom Bianchi: All stay well!
Eileen Andrews: Please stay well.
John Unson: Everyone stay well.
Rob Keister: Everyone stay safe. My wife and I just celebrated our 29th anniversary!

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 9, 2021. The meeting will again be done via email.

Respectfully Submitted,
Valerie Young - Secretary