



Gates Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting October 8, 2019



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		

The meeting was called to order promptly at 6:26PM by Rhoda Ride.

The minutes from the September meeting were reviewed. A mistake was noted that inadvertently had Rob Keister's name excluded in the "Good of the Order" portion of the September's meeting minutes. A motion was made by Greg Westbrook and seconded by Eileen Andrews to accept the amended September meeting minutes. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes with the appropriate amendment made.

Financial Report:

The current financial report was reviewed. The following questions were raised for discussion/explanation:

- * John Unson inquired about Line A7310.437 - Dance Program where the expended amount is listed as 124.40%? Dan Hoock explained that many more participants took part in this event than originally expected, and that a revenue line reflecting the profit of this program should be added to clarify these discrepancies. It also was explained that any profits from these programs go into the general operating funds.
- * Discussion took place about the status of the upgrades being done to the park bathrooms. Chris DiPonzio mentioned that bids have been put out related to the work that needs to be done, and the Town Board was waiting to hear back from the contractors involved. Extensive discussion took place on the pros/cons of doing a total replacement of facilities compared to doing just a renovation. Brom Bianchi also mentioned that the bathrooms need to be ADA compliant, no matter what course is taken. Discussion continued. Chris DiPonzio will report back to the Commission when the contractor bid information is made available.
- * Rob Keister suggested to add descriptive footnotes to the budgetary sheet(s) to explain some of the information printed. This would be helpful to the Commissioners as it would clarify some of the documentation that they receive. An example of this would be the expenditures incurred related to the car accident that damaged the town security car. Everyone thought this was a good idea. Rhoda Ride suggested that beginning in 2020, the budgetary sheets could include this format change. All agreed it was a good time to make that format change.
- * A brief discussion took place on some other portions of the budgetary sheet. Dan Hoock mentioned again that even though it might appear that certain programs are exceeding the percentage of budgetary amounts, the total expenditures of the various programs are all within the constraints of the total budgeted amounts of money.

A motion was made by John Unson and seconded by Steve Murphy that the budget sheets be accepted as printed. The vote was unanimous to accept the budget report for September in it's entirety.

Correspondence:

Dan Hoock shared a note from the Roberts Wesleyan College Service Day done with the First Responders.

Evaluation of Past Programs:

Rhoda Ride inquired where the reports were for the following programs: Star Camp and Summer Camp? Dan Hoock explained the reports were not finalized yet, but would be included in the next month's meeting packet.

A brief review was done related to the programs that have been cancelled.

Programs in Progress:

Rhoda Ride asked the Commissioners review this listing on their own.

Old Business:

Rhoda Ride inquired on the status of the kitchen evaluation done at the town hall? Dan Hoock stated that the inspection done indicated the facilities were adequate to support a community food program. The next step would be to survey the community to see if a daily/weekly food offering program would be supported? Dan has copies of a survey available for distribution. By the November meeting, information about the survey results should be compiled.

The next item to be discussed related to the status of what is going on with the First Responders Park. Concern was raised by several Commissioners related to the fact that communication has been poor between the people involved with the First Responders and the Commission. Dan Hoock indicated that he would be willing to support/coordinate an event to officially commemorate this park, and suggested the First Responder group be invited to the November Commission meeting to discuss this. Rhoda Ride shared that a dedication service has already occurred as it was posted on Facebook, and many people attended this event, so what would the purpose of holding a second dedication afford us? Extensive discussion followed on this topic. Chris DiPonzio offered to contact the First Responders involved by the November 12 meeting to see if communication of the status of this project can be shared with the Commission. He also mentioned that the park is still under town ownership, and doesn't belong to the First Responders. This will be a talking point at the November meeting.

Dan Hoock reported that he was in touch with the town legal services, as well as the town insurance company, related to the Commission question of serving alcoholic beverages for Department sponsored programming (painting class) and what the liability responsibility was. Dan explained the legal responsibilities of the town/department, and after a brief discussion, the decision to **not** sponsor these types of programs was made. All agreed the liability ramifications far exceeded the profits made by this type of programming. Also, related to this question, the point of rentals of parks/pavilions where private parties serve alcohol was asked. A permit to do this must be gotten through the county (not the town) by the renter, and then the renter would assume the total responsibility for the liability related to any accidents. Rhoda Ride thanked Dan Hoock for researching this information for the Commission.

The next item to be addressed was the upcoming Halloween party. Dan Hoock shared the specifics of what activities would be going on along with the menu and timeline of activities. One of the activities that had been discussed at an earlier meeting to happen at this event was dropped as a consideration. All agreed this was an appropriate thing to do. A brief discussion followed and Dan Hoock reminded everyone they were welcomed to attend the festivities.

New Business:

On November 15, there will be a conference sponsored the GVRP held at Seneca Park Zoo. Registration must be in by November 8.

On October 23, a tour of Mt. Hope Cemetery (sponsored by GVRP) will occur at 2:30PM. This is a free event that everyone is invited to participate in. If you are interested, please let Dan Hoock know.

Dan Hoock shared that a new sign for the Wegman Road Park is in the works. Rob Keister asked if the sign could be moved closer to the road and if it could be placed vertical to the road, not horizontal. Dan Hoock indicated the new sign will be placed in a direction where it can be viewed more easily from the road, but he wasn't sure it could be moved closer. He will report back at the November meeting on the status of this sign.

Dan Hoock asked about setting a "Park Meet & Greet" for 2020 to do park input assessments. This could be an evening activity where people who are interested could come and give their input on what improvements they would like to see to our town parks, along with being more interactive and improve communications. A brief discussion took place. This will be brought to the table again for discussion at a later date.

Dan Hoock shared a brief overview of his recent conference experience in Baltimore. He shared he felt it was enlightening, uplifting, informative and gave him some wonderful new ideas that he would like to see happen with our department programming. A brief discussion took place related to the conference sheet of information that Dan had included in the Commission packet. More discussion at future meetings will occur related to this information.

A brief discussion took place related to the idea of holding a weekly farmer's market program at the town hall, or one of the parks. Many points of view were shared related to the pros/cons of having this type of program in our community. The idea was tabled for discussion at a later date.

Rhoda Ride mentioned she was pleased to see the large urns of flowers/shrubbery along Buffalo Rd. were being maintained so well by the town. These large urns really brightened up the roadside, and the fact that so many of them were done by school children made them even more special.

Good of the Order:

Chris DiPonzio: Suggested asking the school district combined chorus to perform for the Christmas program would be a good idea.

Steve Murphy: No comment at this time.

Greg Westbrook: Happy Fall to everyone!

Rob Keister: Suggested the entertainment for the Christmas program should be more interactive for children.

Valerie Young: Thank you for the beautiful new Commission jacket!

Eileen Andrews: Mentioned she would be unable to attend the November meeting.

Rhoda Ride: Extended her thanks to Dan Hoock for his input on getting Commissioner name pins for upcoming events.

Dan Hoock: Mentioned he had reached out to some local jazz bands to see their availability for upcoming entertainment events. Dan also mentioned he has checked out some of the local churches for their availability to host the summer camp programs.

Brom Bianchi: Mentioned to all Commissioners to be careful driving on the road when bicyclists are using the same area. He recently lost a family to a cycling accident, and his family is devastated over this loss.

A motion was made by Eileen Andrews and seconded by Rob Keister the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12 at 6:30 PM at the Recreation Conference room.

Respectfully Submitted,
Valerie Young - Recording Secretary