



Gates Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting February 8, 2022



Those in attendance:

Commissioners:	Rhoda Ride	Brom Bianchi	Steve Murphy	Greg Westbrook
	Eileen Andrews	Rob Keister	John Unson	
Director:	Dan Hock			
Town Board Liaison:	Andrew Loughlin			

This meeting was conducted via email. The meeting information was sent to each Commissioner on February 8 with the request that each respond back to Dan Hock, using the “**reply all**” key. 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 November Commission meeting minutes:

Approval of the January Commission meeting minutes:

Approval: Rhoda Ride, Greg Westbrook, Rob Keister, Brom Bianchi, John Unson and Steve Murphy
 No input received concerning the approval of minutes : Eileen Andrews and Andrew Loughlin

Financial Report:

The financial statements for January were distributed as part of the packet.

Approval of the January Financial report included:

Approval: Rhoda Ride, Rob Keister, John Unson, Greg Westbrook and Steve Murphy
 No input received concerning the approval of financial report: Eileen Andrews, Brom Bianchi and Andrew Loughlin

The following comment was included in John Unson’s response pertaining to how unspent funds from the Department are accounted for at the end of the fiscal year: *I dispute the suggestion that having Rec. & Parks spend monies that were budgeted to them is being fiscally irresponsible. It’s not like any surplus is refunded to the taxpayers. I believe that this money returns to a general fund where it is still eventually spent, just not necessarily on Rec. & Parks needs.*

Correspondence:

None at this time.

Programming:

All of the current programs are running well. Reports of the completed programs were included in the packet.

Input from the Commission included:

Steve Murphy: The past and present programs running all look good.

Old Business:

Meal Program Update: Plumbing and electrical work in the Annex will be completed by the end of February. All the paperwork has been submitted to the Office for the Aging. The next step is to get the health department approval for the kitchen.

Input from the Commission included:

John Unson: I’m pleased to see that the Meal Program is progressing.

Summer Celebration Band Listing: Dan Hock sent a listing of band options for the Commission to review.

Input from the Commission included:

Rhoda Ride: I’m not familiar with any of the bands, so I have no input.

Brom Bianchi: I suggest ‘Uptown Funk’ for a band choice.

Steve Murphy: Inquired if we are still under COVID protocol? Will there be food trucks or local vendors this year?
 Has contact been made with Young’s Fireworks for \$10K?
 Band input - no comment at this time.

John Unson: No opinions on the band(s) to be selected.

Greg Westbrook: I have no suggestions for bands. We have had “Me & The Boyz” and “Uptown Grove” before, and they were good.

Be Kind Event: Dan Hoock reported there were over 50 participants at this event. Many of the planned craft projects were completed in the time frame given, and Dan mentioned they received some immediate positive feedback from the organizations chosen for support. Everyone seemed to have an enjoyable time and there was a very positive feeling throughout the event.

No input from the Commission was received.

New Business:

Easter Prizes: Dan Hoock included several website links for the Commissioners to review and give their input on.

Input from the Commission included:

Rhoda Ride: The soft, stuffed toys would be a good choice.

Brom Bianchi: Not a fan of the finger toy options. Other choices were OK.

Rob Keister: The 2" fruit toy can be choking hazard. I agree with Greg's suggestions.

Steve Murphy: I think the older group would appreciate the 16-oz. Easter mug rather than a plush toy. The younger group might enjoy a mix of such. Be careful of anything that can be a choking hazard.

John Unson: I like either the plush toys (gnomes/Easter pals) as well as the rubber chick egg stress balls. Stay away from the small fruit toys due to being a possible choking hazard.

Greg Westbrook: The Easter Egg hunt prizes are all acceptable to me except the rubber fruit, which would be a choking hazard.

New Park Options: Dan Hoock asked for input and ideas from the Commission related to the land recently donated to the town by Dolomite. He included an overview picture of this area in the packet, and also a trail map. Dan asked for input related to options this land could be developed into as an asset for the community.

Input from the Commission included:

Rhoda Ride: Raised concern on where the access points would be to this park. Suggested it would be a "passive park" with walking and hiking trails. Most important... no residents or wildlife should be disturbed.

Brom Bianchi: Along the park trails, I would suggest fitness stops with fixed equipment. I have experienced this in other parks and they seem popular. Outdoor fitness is popular.

Rob Keister: I thought we agreed this would be a passive park? I recommend there be an outhouse on site.

Steve Murphy: We need to assess the pros/cons for the development of this park. More research needed.

John Unson: I feel more research/discussion needs to happen related to parking areas. Suggestions could include: east end of Hinchey property; west of 610 Hinchey Rd.; north end of Lettington or between #9 & #13 Renouf.

Greg Westbrook: Where would the entrance be? Lettington Ave./Renouf Dr. are residential and do not need the extra traffic. If we are to use this land as a park, I suggest an entrance be created from Howard Rd with a parking area.

The following motion listed below is a carry-over from January's meeting. There was no "second" to this motion mentioned in the February input from the Commissioners, so it remains open on the table.

Rob Keister made a motion to elect the following officers for the 2022 year: Rhoda Ride - Chairperson; Greg Westbrook - Vice Chairperson and Eileen Andrews - Sunshine.

Good of the Order:

Steve Murphy: Wished everyone warmth and good health.

Brom Bianchi: I hope everyone is well.

Rob Keister: Have a great day!

Greg Westbrook: I hope you all have a good month.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 8, 2022. The meeting will again be done via email.

Respectfully Submitted,
Valerie Young - Secretary