



Gates Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting April 12, 2022



Those in attendance:

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

The meeting was called to order (unofficially) at 6:35PM. There was not a quorum of commissioners in attendance. Rhoda Ride introduced the liaison from the town, Andrew Loughlin. At this time, everyone at the table shared information about themselves so that Andrew could get a sense of the history of the Commission, and the work it has accomplished over the years. In turn, Andrew also shared information about his work, his family and his community service for the town. Following this, the fourth commissioner arrived, and the meeting was officially called to order at 7PM (quorum number was met.) Andrew shared at this time, that the Town Board had accepted the resignation of Rob Keister from the Commission, and the decision had been made, and agreed to, that this Commission would have a six member board.

The minutes of the March 8 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Greg Westbrook and seconded by Eileen Andrews that the March minutes be accepted as written. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes.

Financial Report:

The financial report was reviewed. There were no questions raised. A motion was made by Eileen Andrews and seconded by Brom Bianchi that this report be accepted as written. The vote was unanimous to accept the financial report.

Correspondence:

Rhoda Ride shared her concern that the distribution of the magazine, "The Voice," has been inconsistent with the Commission, and shared the one copy she had with the members in attendance. Dan Hoock will follow up on this subscription status.

Dan Hoock shared a thank you note from the Gates Chili SD expressing their appreciation for the program the department did during the spring Superintendent's Conference Day. Dan and Ellen Friedman organized and presented this program.

Dan Hoock also shared a note from the Girl Scout Troop(s) thanking the Department for allowing them to use the town facilities for their meetings throughout the year. Dan also mentioned there is a proposed BSA Eagle project to clean up and expand the butterfly garden at Westgate Park. This would be done in conjunction with the Gates Garden Club. A brief discussion followed about who would be maintaining the garden for the season.

Program Reports:

Rhoda Ride asked a question concerning a minimum number of participants for a trip program. Her concern was based on the recent trip to Corning Glass Works where there were ten participants and one staff member. With the cost of gas/etc. this seemed to a costly trip for the low number of people going. Discussion followed on what minimum numbers have been in the past and overall costs now. Dan Hoock shared that ten was the minimum/fourteen was the maximum number of participants due to the van size. Each trip is evaluated separately, but they would be more cognizant in the future about this if gas prices and other costs don't decrease.

Rhoda Ride commented on the success of the St. Patrick's Day luncheon and shared she was pleased at the number of people who attended. There was good food, good company and this was a well run program. Greg Westbrook asked that on the program report the name of the church listed be corrected to reflect The Parish of the Holy Family at St. Jude's.

Eileen Andrews inquired about the low number of children that participated in the Spring Recess Camp, and asked whether or not the costs of running this program were able to support so few participants? Dan shared the numbers were lower than in the past, but the importance of offering such a program for the community to take advantage of was very important. The cost of child care can be prohibitive, and this program allows parents (for a reasonable fee,) to have their children cared for. Discussion followed on the costs of this program and the need in our community to offer it. Rhoda Ride asked Dan to keep the Commission informed if there is a need for "scholarship" monies to be made available to help parents cover the costs. More discussion took place related to minimum numbers for enrollment, including both full and partial weeks' participants. Andrew Loughlin shared the town board could investigate the needs of the community, and offer input with setting up minimum enrollment requirements. Discussion continued. Dan shared the importance of continuing this program, and mentioned a consideration of discounting enrollment fees for GAP participants. Discussion followed. Greg Westbrook mentioned the possibility of scholarship options that could be made through the "Friends" group. This will be a consideration in the future.

Old Business:

Meal Program:

Dan Hoock reported that overall the program is running well. It's been a bit of a learning curve, but over thirty people have participated each day, the food has been good, there are at least 10-volunteers offering to help, and there were several new people attending. It's off to a great start and hopefully will continue. He will give regular updates at future meetings.

Summer Celebration:

Rhoda Ride inquired about the monies being spent for summer celebration? At a previous meeting, Dan had reported the budget for this event had been reduced. Rhoda asked if the monies scheduled for the Star Camp program (\$21,250) which has been cancelled, and also the monies budgeted for the hiring of an intern (\$2700,) could be put towards increasing the budget for Summer Celebration? Extensive discussion followed on this possible option. Rhoda also asked who would make the final decision to move these funds? Dan explained it would be the Town Supervisor. The question was raised on what other activities were planned for this event? Dan explained the sound system/staging, food vendors, bands and fireworks have all been confirmed. Other activities are yet to be finalized. This would include activities for children to participate in, along with what activities the community groups might want to sponsor. Discussion followed if this would include pony rides, bounce houses, etc. This discussion led to the idea of consideration to be given to a separate child-oriented day event that would be scheduled separately from the Summer Celebration. Many opinions and good ideas were shared. Dan will check with the staff concerning how an additional event, such as this, could be added to the already existing program calendar. Andrew Loughlin inquired about the fireworks display and Dan shared that Young's Fireworks would be coordinating this part of the program, and that an annual donation from Wegmans usually covers half the cost (approximately \$5000.) Discussion continued related to suggestions for activities (GaGa pit, scavenger hunt, lawn games, sport games, etc.) Dan will compile a listing of possible activities for the May meeting.

Easter Egg Hunt:

Dan Hoock shared that even though the predicted weather isn't good for this event, it will still be a go at Westgate Park on Saturday at 10AM. Eileen Andrews asked why it isn't being held at TSE where the weather conditions wouldn't impact? Dan explained that due to COVID restrictions, it was scheduled for the park for this year, but consideration for next year's event could consider moving it back to TSE. Dan asked the volunteers who will be attending be at the park by 9:30AM. A variety of stuffed animals and drinking cups will be the prizes distributed to the children after they collect their eggs. For older children, they will be asked collect a variety of colored eggs to get their prizes which will take them a bit longer to collect. It should be a fun event.

New Business:

Dan Hoock shared an update on the staffing. Kim Vogler will be cutting back on her hours (working Tues/Thurs/Fri.) To make up for this deficit of time, Stacie Paris and Ellen Friedman will be adding/adjusting their work responsibilities. Ellen will also be promoted to recreation supervisor status. Rhoda Ride asked if the new meal program expands, will there be a need for a FT/PT person to help out? Dan replied this could be a possibility, but the staff currently can cover any needs of this program.

Rhoda Ride inquired about the coverage of the department during the time that staff members are the state conference? Dan explained that two staff members will be covering the offices while the others are attending the conference.

Dan shared information pertaining the dock at Lions Park. He explained that the safety concerns have been addressed. Boards on the dock have been replaced, but need to be painted. A discussion of how best this dock could be improved took place. Consideration of floating dock, which would allow for better fishing, might be considered. If this is, work to clean out the marsh area would need to be done. Consideration of replacing some of the posts in the water should be considered too. A brief discussion followed.

Due to the lateness of the evening, agenda items "Spring/Summer programs" and "Election of Officers" will be tabled till the May meeting.

Dan Hoock shared a sheet of information dates for Community Clean up. This is done by a volunteer group, and everyone is invited to participate to do a spring clean up in our community. A brief discussion followed pertaining the areas to be covered. Dan mentioned this would be posted on Facebook. Rhoda Ride reminded him not everyone has access to Facebook, so flyers should be distributed also.

Good of the Order:

Valerie Young: Commented it was nice to be meeting in-person again.

Eileen Andrews: Looking forward to the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday.

Rhoda Ride: Thanked everyone for coming to this meeting and welcomed Andrew Loughlin again.

Greg Westbrook: Nothing at this time

Brom Bianchi: Shared there will be a Town forum held at the Library on April 30 from 10AM-2PM. This will be the community's opportunity to give their input on the Master Plan for the town. The community's input is a vital part of the plan.

Andrew Loughlin: Thanked everyone for welcoming him to the Commission, and thanked Brom for sharing the Master Plan information.

Dan Hoock: Mentioned the floor at the Westgate cabin has been damaged with several areas that have been stained. So far, these stains have been unable to be cleaned. There is a possibility the floor might have to be replaced.

A motion was made by Eileen Andrews and seconded by Greg Westbrook to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous and the meeting was closed at 8:47PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 6:30PM at the Rec. Center at the Town offices.

Respectfully Submitted,
Valerie Young - Secretary