



Gates Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting May 11, 2021



Those in attendance:

Commissioners:	Rhoda Ride	Rob Keister	John Unson
	Eileen Andrews	Steve Murphy	Greg Westbrook
Director:	Dan Hooch		
Town Board Liaison:	Chris DiPonzio		
Not in attendance:	Brom Bianchi		

The meeting was called to order at 6:35PM by Rhoda Ride.

The minutes of the April 13, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Dan Hooch noted a correction to be made under "Old Business" (second bullet) where it is noted the pavilion to be taken down. It should read, "Wegman Rd. Park" not "Westgate Park." A motion was made by Greg Westbrook and seconded by Eileen Andrews to accept the April minutes with this correction. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes.

Financial Report:

The March 2021 financial report was reviewed. The following questions were raised:

- * Greg Westbrook asked for an explanation of monies spent under code 7140.485? Dan Hooch explained those monies were for the purchase of the new garbage cans to be placed throughout the park system.
- * Rob Keister asked for an explanation of monies spent under code 7310.485 (Health/Wellness cooking) where 91% has been spent. Dan will check into this as this could possibly have been entered incorrectly. He will report back at our next meeting.
- * Rhoda Ride asked for an explanation of monies budgeted under code 7020.437 (Intern Stipend?) Dan explained that even though there currently is no intern slated to work, it is good policy to keep monies budgeted for this, as compared to adding monies at a later date.
- * Rhoda Ride also asked for an explanation for monies budgeted under code 7140.437 (Play Camps.) Dan explained these monies would cover the costs incurred for running the summer program (salaries/supplies, etc.) A brief discussion followed pertaining to what COVID-19 restrictions might be at that time this program occurs, and how they would be enforced.

A motion was made by Eileen Andrews and seconded by Steve Murphy to accept the financial report. The vote was unanimous to accept it.

Correspondence:

Dan Hooch shared a letter from Margaret Streeter (AARP tax program) thanking the department for their support of this program. Dan shared that things went very well with this program and that it appeared to run more efficiently, so lessons were learned for making better use of time. Dan also mentioned a consideration for next year is to allow Gates residents to sign up early prior to opening it up to the community.

Past Programming:

Greg Westbrook shared it was wonderful to see the number a people participating in the disc golf program. A brief discussion followed related to the increased interest in this activity. Dan Hooch also shared information on a program being offered at Memorial Park on Friday, May 14. It's called FORE (3-hole disc golf; 3-hole soccer; 3-hole mini golf & 3-hold kid golf) Everyone was invited to come and participate.

Old Business:

Dan Hooch shared an overview of what activities are taking place currently. The use of the annex room is still somewhat limited, but activities will increase as soon as restrictions lessen. Dan surveyed the Commissioners for ideas for adult programming. The following ideas were shared:

Bowling at Gates Center	Historical presentations w/local speakers	Presentations w/speakers (weather)
Board Game event	Culinary Trips (maybe in the fall)	Lollypop Farm presentation
Local/short distance field trips	Planetarium/Art Museum trip	Presentation by lawyer (estate planning)
Red Wing game	Eastman Concert	Library tours
Farmer's Market - Seneca Falls	Public Market trip	Sports presentations

Dan thanked everyone for their input and asked for continued sharing of ideas throughout the year.

Summer Celebration: Dan Hooch shared the newest restrictions related to outdoor activities. Although the total numbers of people who are allowed to attend has increased, it is still far below the numbers that normally attend this event. Extensive discussion took place on the options that might be considered. Highlights of this discussion included:

- * Since several other towns have cancelled their events, this event might have the potential to have even more people attend as it would be the only event for the season. How could a large attendance be handled safely and effectively?
- * Would restrictions lessening allow food/etc. to be offered and how could that be managed safely with crowd control/social distancing.
- * Efforts should be made now to arrange for outdoor bathrooms and rental of golf carts for transport.
- * The music and fireworks have been contacted/contracted but should food trucks also be lined up for support? Community groups too?

Extensive discussion took place on all these concerns and a final decision will be made at the June meeting as to whether or not this program will take place.

Steve Murphy asked for an update on the condition of the Bocce Ball courts? Dan Hoock explained that due to the poor conditions of these courts and the lack of people using them, they are being filled in and possibly picnic tables will be placed there.

Dan Hoock also shared that a new flag pole is being put in place at the Town Hall. It is much a much taller pole, and the first time a flag will be raised on it will be at the Memorial Day celebration.

Item "C" on the agenda will be tabled until the June meeting.

Rhoda Ride shared she had contacted Rob Long of the Gates Police to get an update on the status of any new procedures in place to deal with the legalized use of marijuana. She reiterated that the standing laws remain the same related to smoking in public places and on town property. She shared that if a staff member sees someone smoking on town properties, they are to call the police immediately and not confront the person(s) themselves. This is a police issue and should be handled that way. She also mentioned more updated signage pertaining to this change is being considered.

New Business:

A discussion pertaining to having the Commission meet during the summer took place. A vote was taken and there will be a July meeting scheduled, but not an August meeting. The July meeting will be held on the 13.

Dan Hoock asked about scheduling Park visits. The purpose of these visits would be to interact and get feedback from people using the parks on programming ideas and better use of the facilities. Extensive discussion took place on the pros/cons of these visits. The parks visited will be Westgate and Lions (the most used ones) A Westgate Park visit is tentatively scheduled for May 25 from 6:30-8PM (weather dependent.)

Dan Hoock mentioned that a Little Free Food Pantry project had been brought to his attention by a resident. This would be a small cupboard stocked with non-perishable foods made available for those in need. It would be an option for people to take (or leave) food for those who might be in need of food in our community. Extensive discussion took place on this idea. All agreed it was a good idea, but implementing it (placement location, re-stocking, maintenance) need more investigation. This item was tabled for discussion at a later date.

Rob Keister was asked to represent the Commission at the upcoming Memorial Day ceremony on 5/31/21 at 10AM. Rob agreed to do this.

Good of the Order:

Rob Keister: Nothing at this time.

Steve Murphy: Glad to see everyone tonight!

John Unson: Encouraged everyone get out and vote on 5/18 for the Budget. In addition, he shared an update on his family.

Rhoda Ride: Stay well....see you for our June meeting.

Chris DiPonzio: Prior to the start of the meeting, Chris introduced us to his new puppy Ted. Nothing more at this time

Dan Hoock: Encouraged everyone to attend upcoming programs (FORE; Town Scavenger Hunt, etc.)

Valerie Young: Mentioned an upcoming Chicken BBQ on 5/21 at Elmgrove UMC starting at 3PM. Drive thru only.

Eileen Andrews: Had left the meeting early and was not in attendance at this portion of the meeting.

A motion was made by Steve Murphy and seconded by Rob Keister the meeting adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30PM on Tuesday, June 8, 2021. The meeting will be held at the Memorial Park shelter.

Respectfully Submitted,
Valerie Young - Secretary