



# Gates Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting January 10, 2017



Those in attendance:

Commissioners:	Rhoda Ride	Steve Murphy
	Brom Bianchi	John Unson
	Rob Keister	Greg Westbrook
Director:	Linda Fowler	
Liaison:	Chris DiPonzio	
Absent:	Eileen Andrews	

The meeting was called to order promptly at 6:30 PM by Rhoda Ride.

The minutes from the November meeting were reviewed. Following this review, a motion was made by Greg Westbrook and seconded by Rob Keister to accept the minutes from the November meeting. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes.

### **Financial Report:**

The November financial report was distributed and reviewed by the Commissioners. Rhoda Ride asked for a consensus of opinion from the Commissioners as to whether or not they wanted to take time to review this report now, or to table it for the next meeting. The consensus was to take the time now to review the sheet and vote on it. Following a review, a motion was made by Greg Westbrook, and seconded by Steve Murphy, that the financial report be accepted. The vote was unanimous to accept this report. Linda Fowler mentioned that the December report would be available for review at the February meeting.

### **Correspondence:**

Linda Fowler shared two thank you notes sent to the department. One was from the Gates Chili School district related to the Departments' support of the Family Wellness program, and the second note was from Gates Historical Society related to the decorating of a Christmas tree displayed at the Hinchey House during the holiday season. A brief discussion followed related to the success of the community event held at the GCHS. Rob Keister, Chris DiPonzio and Greg Westbrook shared their thoughts of this program and the positive impact it had on the community.

### **Park Reports:**

There were no park reports at this time.

### **Evaluation of Past Programs:**

Linda Fowler shared the Town tree lighting ceremony went very well and was well supported by the community. She also mentioned the recess camp went well too, although the number of participants was down this year. John Unson asked a question pertaining to the \$18,000 profit listed for the GAP program. His concern was the fees that are being charged for this program are too high. Linda Fowler explained that all the expenses of this program have not yet been fully processed, so the December financial report will show a more comprehensive breakdown of expenses and profits. This line item will be reviewed again at the February meeting.

### **Programs in Progress/Future Programs:**

Linda Fowler shared that many of the new programs have started and are going well. The upcoming Winter Carnival will be held on Saturday, January 29 from 2PM-4PM at Westgate park. Linda asked if any of the Commissioners would like to help out, to please let her know.

Rhoda Ride asked a question to clarify the process of registration of non-residents in the classes offered. In the policy book, it clearly states that non-residents can only apply for registration two weeks after open enrollment for residents is completed. It appears that this is not always the policy followed. Linda stated that in order for the classes to start in a timely manner, sometimes non-residents are allowed to register early, although never at the expense of a resident not being able to participate. Discussion followed about this policy, and where sometime exceptions could be made (e.g. - AARP driving course). It was decided that any/all exceptions to this non-resident policy be brought to the Commission for a decision.

### **Old Business:**

Rhoda Ride suggested the review of the Policy handbook be placed at the end of the meeting. All agreed this was a good idea. Linda Fowler reported that preparation for the pickle ball courts has started at the Westgate Park. A commitment for the sealing and striping of the asphalt has been signed (\$10,000) and hopefully it will be installed in time for the summer program. Rhoda Ride asked about the skate park area of Westgate and Linda indicated that it could be used for a GaGa pit.

Rhoda Ride referenced a discussion that occurred at the November Commission meeting pertaining to the Halloween activity the Department participates in that is hosted at The Garden Factory. Some concerns had been raised about the costs pertaining to this program (e.g. - cost of bicycles given as prizes for costumes.) Linda Fowler explained that each of the prize bikes cost \$100 and that when they were awarded, it wasn't always to residents. Discussion followed on the pros and cons of these expenses, and what other options might be available for this community event. Following this discussion, it was decided that there was time to consider other options (event is not being held until October, 2017) and that careful consideration must be given to The Garden Factory, as they have

been very community oriented and supportive of the Department in the past. A brief discussion followed and this item was tabled for a later meeting.

**New Business:**

The next item for discussion was the upcoming 60th Anniversary celebration. Highlights of this conversation included:

- Rhoda Ride and Chris DiPonzio shared the lists they compiled of possible community businesses that could be contacted for support either through donation or sponsorship (e.g. - ads, signage, etc.)
- Linda Fowler shared that there are no schedule monies to cover the costs of this activity. Possibly, if there are monies left over from the Summer Celebration, they could be designated for this event.
- Greg Westbrook indicated that possibly the "Friends" group might be able to donate some start up monies for this event.
- Chris DiPonzio shared that more organization was needed in support of this event and that definitive ideas for activities should be in place before trying to figure out budgetary needs.
- Extensive discussion took place as to what activities might be scheduled (e.g. - fireworks, music - bands or DJ's, demonstrations, craft activities, displays, etc.)
- Extensive discussion concerning the pros/cons of combining this activity with the Summer Celebration took place. Chris DiPonzio will discuss this option with the Town Supervisor, Mark Assini, and report back to Rhoda Ride about this decision option. If these activities are combined, the budgetary concerns would be covered. If they remain separate events, the budgetary concerns remain.
- Linda Fowler mentioned that if information about this event is to be included in the brochure, it needs to be finalized by March 1.

Further discussion of this topic ended until a decision is made on whether or not this will be an independent activity, or combined with the Summer Celebration event.

A brief discussion took place pertaining to the musical groups that are being considered for the Summer Celebration event. Several options of musical venues were discussed and it was decided that "Miller and Other Sinners" and "Invicta's" would be the two bands that would be contacted. Linda will follow up on this directive.

Linda Fowler shared the information about the upcoming NYSRPS Annual Conference to be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Rochester from April 2-4. Linda asked the Commissioners to let her know if they are interested in attending. A brief discussion took place pertaining to this conference. Registration fees will be covered by the town.

The election of officers was held for the Commission for 2017. Steve Murphy made a motion that the officers for 2017 remain the same and that park assignments stay unchanged. This motion was seconded by John Unson. The vote was unanimous to pass this motion. Rhoda Ride asked for confirmation that the meetings remain on the second Tuesday of each month. This was confirmed. The meeting dates will be: 2/14, 3/14, 4/11, 5/9, 6/13, 9/12, 10/10, 11/14 & 12/12.

Discussion of the Policy Manual was tabled until the 2/14/17 meeting. At that time, the discussion will include how the manual will be reviewed and updated in the most efficient way with each Commissioner being assigned specific sections to review.

Linda Fowler mentioned that Kim Vogler has had recent surgery and will be out of work approximately 8-12 weeks. Everyone in the department is helping to cover Kim's job responsibilities. She also mentioned the Euchre Tournament will be this coming weekend.

**Good of the Order:**

Greg Westbrook: Nothing at this time.

Valerie Young: Thanked everyone for the thoughtful holiday gift.

Linda Fowler: Nothing at this time.

Rob Keister: Shared that tomorrow was his 25 wedding anniversary. Happy Anniversary!

Chris DiPonzio: Nothing at this time.

Rhoda Ride: Nothing at this time.

Steve Murphy: Nothing at this time.

Brom Bianchi: Nothing at this time.

John Unson: Shared that he will be the Varsity baseball coach this coming year. Congratulations John!

A motion was made by Greg Westbrook and seconded by Steve Murphy the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 14 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Valerie Young  
Recording Secretary