



Gates Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting November 15, 2016



Those in attendance:

Commissioners: Rhoda Ride Steve Murphy
 Rob Keister Greg Westbrook

Director: Linda Fowler

Liaison: Chris DiPonzio

Absent: Eileen Andrews, Brom Bianchi and John Unson

The meeting was called to order promptly at 6:40 PM by Rhoda Ride.

The minutes from the October meeting were reviewed. Following this, a motion was made by Greg Westbrook and seconded by Steve Murphy to accept the minutes from the October meeting. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes.

Financial Report:

The financial report was reviewed. The following questions were asked:

- * Rhoda Ride ask for an explanation concerning the amount of \$2169.80 listed under the Administration: Operations category as Misc. Expense? Linda Fowler explained these were fees associated with the engineers who did the field study for the concert shell.
- * A question was raised about the play camp expenditures. Linda explained these were just estimates, and that it included a grouping of several different categories.
- * A question was raised about why so little of the concert budgeted monies had been spent (19.50%). Linda explained that expenses for wages were taken out of a different account, which left more monies available under this code.
- * Linda also shared that the "Aromatherapy" contractual service listing reflects that the instructor has left the department and moved the class to the Public Library.
- * Rhoda Ride asked about the status of a specific employee. Linda explained this employee is now doing a variety of different jobs for the Department and they need to be more mindful that he doesn't exceed the total number of hours he's allowed to work in a week.
- * Rob Keister asked about the expenses tied into the Misc. Expense/Supply column under "pizza party?" Linda explained that paper supplies were needed and there is no income made on the pizza parties anymore.
- * Rhoda Ride asked about why so much money spent on the STAR camp? Linda explained that many children take part in this camp program, but the revenues received back from it, do not cover all of the expenses. Linda went on to explain that the percentage numbers that appear next to each program listing can be misleading as the "total" amount spent under the entire category is grouped together, and that is well within the constraints of the budgeted monies.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Rob Keister and seconded by Greg Westbrook that the financial report be accepted. The vote was unanimous to accept this report.

Correspondence:

There was no correspondence to be shared at this time.

Park Reports:

There were no park reports at this time.

Evaluation of Past Programs:

Linda Fowler shared information about the Halloween celebration held at Garden Factory on Saturday, October 29. Linda shared that it cost \$1300 to purchase bikes that were given away as prizes to the various costume category winners. She asked for input on suggestions for possibly some other, less expensive gift options, to be considered. A brief discussion followed with suggestions of not doing a contest at all, offer coupons to local businesses as prizes, etc. It was agreed that reassessment of how the monies are scheduled for this event should take place before next year. Possibly more money should be scheduled to go in support of the Halloween party that Stacie Paris coordinates. This will be discussed at a later date, before the plans are made for next year's celebration.

Programs in Progress/Future Programs:

Rhoda Ride asked why the Bob Ross painting class was held even though enrollment numbers were low? Linda Fowler explained that it's up to the instructor to decide what the minimum number of participants will be, and this instructor was comfortable with having just two in the class. Rhoda shared that she had been contacted by a community member who was frustrated that a class her granddaughter had been signed up for was cancelled twice, yet the enrollment number was very close to the minimum. Linda again shared that this decision was up to the instructor (in this instance, the instructor is a staff member.) Rhoda shared that this particular community member indicated she would no longer support any Department programming due to this frustration of cancelled classes, and this negatively reflects on the overall program. Linda stated she would check with the instructor to see why this happened twice and report back at a later meeting.

Rhoda Ride asked for an explanation on the report sheet for October Recess Camp. It indicated that the town spent money on the event, when in actuality, the program paid for itself. Linda will verify and update this error by the next meeting.

Greg Westbrook asked the status of the adult Euchre club. Linda Fowler shared that the Monday group had approximately 40 participants, and the Wednesday evening group had about 10. Greg shared that the last tournament held was very successful and that approximately 80 people participated in this event.

Linda Fowler shared the "Christmas of the 50's" bus trip was full with 26 people from Gates and 26 people from Churchville attending. Linda also shared the information about the upcoming tree lighting ceremony was included in the informational packet sent out to the Commissioners. In addition, information about the Town of Gates, "Celebrate Community & New Year Celebration" was shared. This activity will be held at the GCHS field house and will include entertainment, activities for the children, outside horse drawn wagon rides and fireworks. The Friends of the GRPD will be distributing free cups and glow sticks. Chris DiPonzio asked if any of the school groups were asked to perform at the town tree lighting? This is frequently a good way to get people to come to these events if their children are involved with them. A brief discussion about this took place. Rhoda Ride also offered the help and support of the Commissioners if they are needed to support this event.

Old Business:

Linda Fowler gave the Commission an update on the Summer Celebration plans. Linda is still waiting to hear back from several of the bands she has contacted. Other suggestions mentioned for activities also included a 5K race to be run in the AM. More information will be available of the status of the program at the January meeting.

Linda updated the Commission of the status of the "Party in the Park" event scheduled for August 12. Suggestions to be included in this event are: games played in the 1950's, antique car show, food truck vendors, chicken BBQ and contacting Mike Vickers from Legend's radio station to come and MC the event. Rob Keister suggested that we research pictures of the Commission members as far back as might be available and put them on display. Chris DiPonzio suggested contacting local business people for sponsorship to help cover the costs of this event. He named five businesses that he felt would be supportive of this activity. The sponsorship of the event could be sold as ads in a program, signage around the town and mentioning sponsor support during the event. The timeframe for the event will be 5PM-9:30PM at Memorial Park. There will be fireworks at 9:30PM for a finale. More discussion concerning this program will happen at upcoming meetings to finalize plans for this celebration of the anniversary of the GRPD.

Linda asked Chris DiPonzio to update the Commission of the status of the SAM Grant. Chris shared that the grant request information needs to be broken down into increments that have specific monetary amounts assigned to them (e.g. - cost of lighting, signage, etc.) By doing this, it will meet the grant requirements and the process should move along more efficiently. The Town Highway Department would possibly do some of the required work which would help keep the costs in check also. Concerns were raised by the Commission that this project had the potential of not being done completely in a timely manner, and that it might not ever be totally completed if the town board changed it's mind of support of it. Discussion followed which encompassed the following topics:

- * Can this project be piggybacked on other projects that are already scheduled?
- * Who exactly would use this facility once it was completed?
- * Is getting the community involved in support of this project a feasible way to keep costs in check?
- * Would this be a facility where mainly sports leagues would be using it?
- * Would we be excluding other interested user groups, if the sports leagues utilize this facility more?

A brief discussion followed on these questions with many opinions offered.

Rhoda Ride asked what the status was of the park rental for a specific event scheduled for the summer. Chris DiPonzio shared that the information Rhoda was requesting was currently not available to the Town Board, but they were pursuing it aggressively.

Linda Fowler shared that Wegmans has donated \$2000 to the community to develop pickle ball courts. Evaluation and investigation is currently being done as to where these courts could be placed (old skate park area at Westgate Park.) Due to the expenses that go along with the development and maintenance of these courts, more information and cost estimates need to be investigated. Linda will report back at a later meeting on the status of this project.

The Town Board has been offered a land donation of approximately 20 acres of property (mainly wetlands) off Belmar Parkway (behind the DePaul facility stretching back to the train tracks.) Possible uses of this land (if it is accepted by the board) might be a dog park, nature walk area, or a passive park. A brief discussion followed. Linda will update us as the status of this acquisition continues.

Linda shared that Bill Gray's restaurant in Chili was holding a fundraiser and shared coupons with the Commissioners.

New Business:

The Policy Manual was extensively discussed, breaking down and reviewing each section separately. The decision was made to go through the policy book completely and verify all of the "acceptable" sections that do not need to be updated. This was done with consensus agreement on these sections. The sections that need to be more thoroughly discussed, or updated, were clearly marked and will be addressed on an individual basis at upcoming meetings in 2017. All agreed this was a workable solution to this task.

Good of the Order:

Rob Keister: Wished everyone a good holiday season!

Linda Fowler: Nothing at this time.

Chris DIPonzio: Nothing at this time.

Steve Murphy: Thanked everyone who brought food to share at tonights meeting.

Greg Westbrook: Thanked everyone who brought food to share at tonights meeting.

Rhoda Ride: Mentioned there would be no December meeting and wished everyone a good holiday! Next meeting is in January, 2017.

Valerie Young: Wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a great new year!

A motion was made by Rob Keister and seconded by Greg Westbrook that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 10 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Valerie Young
Recording Secretary