



Gates Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting May 9, 2017



Those in attendance:

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

The meeting was called to order promptly at 6:31 PM by Rhoda Ride.

The minutes from the April meeting were reviewed. The following information was noted to be amended from the original:

- On "Proposed Changes to the Master Plan Document 2017-19," Page 3 delete the name Robert Keister, Jr. and replace it with David DiCaro.
- On "Proposed Changes to the Master Plan Document 2017-19," Page 3 - Joseph in Joseph Battaglia's name is spelled incorrectly. A motion was made by Greg Westbrook and seconded by Eileen Andrews that the minutes of the April meeting be accepted with the noted changes. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes.

Financial Report:

After a very brief discussion, it was decided to delay a discussion of the financial reports until the June 13 Commission meeting. All agreed this was a good idea.

Correspondence:

Linda Fowler shared a thank you note from the St. Theodore's Food Shelf for help with their recent collection program. The note was shared with all the Commissioners.

Park Reports:

There were no park reports at this time.

Evaluation of Past Programs:

Rhoda Ride asked about the status of the Monday Movie Matinee program. Linda Fowler explained that only a small group of people have been in attendance. Discussion followed and the question was raised as to whether or not this program is in conflict with other program offerings. It was decided to continue this program and to review it again in the future to see if attendance improves. Also, it was mentioned that the selection of the movie titles might also be a reason attendance is low.

Rhoda Ride also asked for an explanation of the cost of "mileage" on the "Spring Recess Camp?" On the written report, a total of \$798 was spent on mileage. Linda explained that several field trips were taken during that week, including one to Buffalo. School district buses were used for these trips and the department is waiting to be billed for them.

Rhoda Ride asked for a clarification of the expenditures listed on the "Wicked" program. A math error was noted in the amount of money spent on tickets. A lengthy discussion followed with input about clarifying the math error made on the report sheet. A question was raised as to whether or not the two staff members who attended this event, paid for their tickets, or had complementary tickets. Also, a question was raised as to whether or not these staff members were volunteers, paid, or given compensation time to cover the hours they were involved. Linda Fowler will check into this, update the math error on the report, and send out an email to all the Commissioners to give them the answers to these questions.

Greg Westbrook asked for an update on the program, "Rochester Music Hall of Fame" as to why it was cancelled. Linda Fowler reported that not enough people signed up to make this a trip viable offering. She mentioned that not many local talents were inducted into the "Hall of Fame," and possibly that was why the community didn't support it. She also mentioned that this trip probably won't be offered next year.

Programs in Progress:

No input was given.

Future Programs:

Rhoda Ride thanked Rob Keister for being the representative of the Commission at the upcoming Memorial Day Celebration program. Rob indicated he was looking forward to the program.

Linda Fowler shared that a new program called, "Up & Up and Away Kite Festival" was being introduced at Memorial Park on May 20. This program will be for children ages 3-14 years old. They will construct kites from kits and then fly them. Stacie Paris is coordinating this program.

Rhoda Ride mentioned the program offering of "Elder Law" sounded very interesting and she has already signed up for it. Linda Fowler mentioned there are still openings if anyone is interested.

Greg Westbrook asked what golf courses would be used for the various upcoming matches. Linda gave a listing of the courses that will be available.

Old Business:

Linda Fowler updated the Commissioner on the status of the Summer Celebration (handout given.) There will be a variety of food options offered by vendors, and there are four confirmed community vendors (Gates Ambulance, Gates Public Library, Gates Democratic Committee and Lutheran Church of Our Savior.) Linda mentioned she is waiting for confirmation about the face painter and also Ricky Ellis (pole vaulter.) Chris DiPonzio asked if the vendors are required to have ID with them? Linda explained that she issues the vendors permits. Chris DiPonzio also asked if there have ever been any incidents during this event involving the outside vendors? Linda stated she was not aware of any.

Linda Fowler gave an update on the status of the 60th Anniversary celebration. She mentioned that the Legends radio staff is not available to come and broadcast at this event. She mentioned that the "Friends" group as given the department \$575 to pay for pony rides at this event. The Gates Lions Club have also given the department \$150 to be spent as they see fit. Rhoda Ride asked if any door prizes will be available? The suggestion of getting plants at the Public Market was made. A brief discussion followed. Linda will continue to update us on the progress of the event at the June meeting.

Linda Fowler updated the Commission on the status of the pickle ball courts at Westgate Park. She mentioned the net pole holes have been drilled, but the rest of the project is currently on hold due to the excessive rainy weather we've experienced. She explained the layout of the courts and mentioned that there should be room for a 4-square court in the corner of the area where the courts are currently being established. Chris DiPonzio asked who would be doing the concrete work to establish the courts? Linda explained there was an oversight on the original plan proposed, so this work is now going to be done by the town's building/grounds crew. Chris DiPonzio asked if the courts would be mobile, and Linda said, "no." Rhoda Ride mentioned that the YMCA has recently established pickle ball courts and ask if in the winter, could these courts be moved inside? After a brief discussion, it was decided the only room in the Town Hall that would meet the sport criteria would be the Board meeting room, and that this might not be the best use of this facility. Rob Keister asked if any of this project could be done for an Boy Scout Eagle project? Linda mentioned she had a scout was scheduled to come in on Friday to speak to her about his Eagle project, so she would consider that. A brief discussion followed on the status of this project and Linda will keep us updated as it moves along.

Linda Fowler reported that Mark Assini (Town Supervisor) signed the paperwork today for the proposed amphitheater in Memorial Park. Linda explained that do to the "best value" contract, the department is no longer limited to the state bidding lists, which allowed them to get a bid for this project at a reduced amount. Discussion followed on the other ramifications of this project (e.g. - vandalism due to placement of this theater in the park, how it would be used, the process for rental, etc.) Linda will continue to update the Commission as this project progresses.

A side note: Eileen Andrews asked if she could give her input concerning the recent Easter Egg Hunt? Eileen was concerned about the prizes that were distributed to the children who participated in this event. The small cars given out could be a choking hazard, so her suggestion was to go back to the small stuffed animals for next years event. Rhoda Ride also suggested that kites are a good option too as gifts.

A side note: Rhoda Ride also asked if there was a policy to list what a minimum class size would need to be before a class was cancelled? Linda said there was no specific policy, but that it depended on the instructor teaching. Some instructors are willing to teach with only two or three registrants, while others ask for a minimum of ten. It varies according to the instructor, the course, the supplies and room availability. Rhoda asked if a policy should be written, and Linda responded that it would need to have generic wording to cover all instances. A brief discussion followed, with no conclusion reached.

New Business:

Linda Fowler updated the Commission on the status of the upcoming "Day of Caring" scheduled for Thursday, May 11. Linda has many volunteers that will be coming to help and she is going to focus them on Memorial and Lions Parks. They will be picking up trash, painting shelter furniture and facilities, gardening, mulching flower beds, etc. She will update the Commission at the June meeting on the success of this event.

Linda Fowler shared the paperwork for the "New Staff" listing. She mentioned approximately 95% of the names on the list are residents of the Town of Gates. It was noted by Greg Westbrook there was an exceptional number of volunteers looking to help out with the camp this year. A brief discussion followed touching areas as where to use the volunteers might be used, the age of the children involved, and also the size of the various camps. Following this discussion Greg Westbrook made a motion to accept this listing as is for summer staffing. This motion was seconded by Rob Keister. The vote was unanimous to accept this listing of names for hire for this summer's program.

Discussion of the Policy Manual took place. Extensive wording changes were suggested. Linda will bring an updated version of the policy to the June meeting. Also, for the June meeting, the Policy Manual sections #140 through #230 are to be reviewed for discussion.

Rhoda Ride asked if non-resident students are charged a different price when they sign up for various sports camps? A brief discussion followed, with no conclusion reached. Greg Westbrook asked if "Safe Environment" training was available for staff? Linda mentioned that is not a mandatory requirement. Rhoda Ride asked if all the volunteers who work 5-hours or less, are vetted? Linda shared that was not done, but that frequently the volunteers are HS students that are recommended by their HS teachers, so they can get credit for their volunteer hours. Based on student nomination by a teacher, the vetting process is not done formally. The question was again raised as to whether or not there should be a policy written about this. No decision was reached. Rob Keister asked if an interpreter is made available for a hearing impaired child attending camp? Linda said yes, this does occur when the need arises, as part of the mandatory ADA compliance act.

Special Project Town Board/Commission: Rhoda Ride shared she had been contacted by the Town Board related to a request to rename one of our town parks after a local military hero/community volunteer posthumously. This request has the full support of the Town Board and they have requested the Commission to do the work to collect the information needed to have this happen. Col. Robert Abbott was a decorated war hero, who, when he returned to Gates community after completing his military commitment, was an extremely active community volunteer (including being the Chairperson of this Commission) and was integral in the setting up the Civil Defense program for the County of Monroe. Sadly, Col. Abbott was killed in 1964 from a helicopter accident during the Rochester riots. All agreed this renaming of one of the existing parks (first choice is Westgate Park) was a good idea, and Rhoda will follow up getting more information to share at upcoming meetings.

Good of the Order:

Valerie Young - Nothing at this time.

Eileen Andrews - Nothing at this time.

John Unson - Nothing at this time

Linda Fowler - Nothing at this time.

Rob Keister - Asked who does the inspection of the playground equipment and facilities after the winter? Linda explained the security people usually do that because they are always checking the parks. She also mentioned that recently Westgate Park had been vandalized. No specifics were given.

Chris DiPonzio - Nothing at this time.

Greg Westbrook- Nothing at this time.

Rhoda Ride: Shared that Brom Bianchi had shared with her Town Park was flooded, and many trees were down. Linda mentioned there wasn't much to be done until the water level went down and then the park would be assessed for repair work.

A motion was made by Rob Keister and seconded by John Unson the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 9:07PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 9 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Young
Recording Secretary