



Gates Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting

February 13, 2018



Those in attendance:

Commissioners:	Rhoda Ride	Rob Keister
	Eileen Andrews	John Unson
	Brom Bianchi	Greg Westbrook
Director:	Dan Hoock	
Liaison:	Chris DiPonzio	
Absent:	Steve Murphy	
Guest:	Jonathan Keister	

The meeting was called to order promptly at 6:41PM by Rhoda Ride. Rhoda welcomed Jonathan Keister to the meeting and encouraged him to participate and ask questions at any time. Rhoda then invited everyone to enjoy the treats that she brought to the meeting.

The minutes from the January meeting were reviewed. Rhoda Ride asked for the January minutes to be amended with the addition of a statement made by Chris DiPonzio at that meeting pertaining to the wording of the leisure time policy. The amended wording would state: *the current policy wording pertaining to leisure time is too far reaching and vague, so the recommendation would be to not have wording included in the policy manual.* A brief discussion followed and all agreed this amended wording should be included. A motion was made by Greg Westbrook and seconded by Eileen Andrews, to accept the January minutes with this amended statement added. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes.

Financial Report:

Dan Hoock shared the December financial statement. This financial statement had been tabled for later discussion, so Rhoda Ride asked for a motion to bring it back to the table. A motion was made by Rob Keister and seconded by Greg Westbrook that this item be brought to the table for discussion. The vote was unanimous to have this occur. Discussion followed on the following:

Rhoda Ride asked Dan Hoock for an explanation as to why so many of the percentage averages exceeded 100% for individual line items? It's understood that as long as the total budgeted monies for the category don't exceed the total allotment scheduled, but it's confusing to see so many of individual line items exceed their budgeted allotments. Several specific line items were discussed (e.g. - Day of Caring, day trips, Star Camp, etc.) Dan agreed that more careful accounting needs to occur for these programs, and as he got more familiar with them, he would address this concern. Brom Bianchi also suggested that more specific terminology should be used on the budget sheets, especially for areas such as "miscellaneous." All agreed this was a good idea. A brief discussion followed on what was discussed, and a motion was made by Greg Westbrook and seconded by Brom Bianchi that the December financial report be accepted. The vote was unanimous to accept this financial statement.

Old Business:

- **Easter Egg Hunt** - Dan Hoock shared his ideas of possible gifts for the children participating, based on age. He shared these suggestions with the Commissioners. Dan also asked several questions concerning how the Easter Egg Hunt has been conducted in the past. Extensive discussion took place on the pros/cons of the gifts suggested, with a final decision made to go with stuffed animals for the younger children and spike balls/key chain w/whistle for older children. Also, Dan suggested that less candy be used to fill the eggs to be a bit more health conscious. Discussion then turned to the acknowledgment that this will be the 50th anniversary of the Kenny Kemp Easter Egg Hunt. Several suggestions were made as to how this could be acknowledged. These included: using "golden" eggs as special gift opportunities that could include age appropriate gift cards, gift certificates or prizes. The suggestion of also inviting Mr. Kemp's family to come to this event was made by Rhoda Ride. Rhoda also suggested that maybe small toothbrushes could be included as gifts.
- **Volunteer Brunch** - Rhoda Ride shared that she had done research on what would be an appropriate gift to say "thank you" to all the volunteers that would be invited to this event. She shared this information and mentioned that Cindy Briggs had also been helpful in this process. The decision to order a First Aid Kit/key ring w/ bag was decided on. She shared the informational sheets on these choices with the Commissioners. Rhoda also stressed that this was to be a social gathering with no political overtones. The set up for this event will be several small tables w/chairs to encourage people to mingle. The menu will include: fresh cut fruit; breakfast pizza, Danish and bagels/cream cheese/butter (Greg offered to slice the bagels!), coffee/tea/water. Dan Hoock estimated the number of people to be invited would be approximately 48. Invitations will go out with an RSVP so that we know who to expect to come. The suggestion was made to order some extra food to just be on the safe side. Dan said he would take care of this. On a side note, it was mentioned that Stacie Paris suggested that student volunteers who help out in the department throughout the year, could receive the key chain/whistle as a thank you gift too.

- **Summer Celebration** - Dan Hoock shared the listing of the bands that have been contacted and asked for suggestions for the final choices. Extensive discussion followed with many differing opinions offered. In addition to this discussion, the following items were brought to the table: specific times for activities; making sure that community groups would be included, food options, parking concerns/shuttle options, police availability for crowd control and traffic, opportunities for some fund raising for youth groups (e.g. - candy sale), and confirmation of the fireworks contract with Young's Fireworks. Dan also shared he had some specific ideas for activities targeted for children of certain ages that would be more interesting and involve more physical movement. Discussion continued with many ideas shared concerning this topic. Dan also mentioned that he had some ideas for activities for adults to participate in too (e.g. - hole in one golf challenge, non-gambling casino type activity.) Brom Bianchi made a motion that the following bands be invited to play at the summer celebration: Rug Burn, The Majestics and Big Eyed Phish. This was seconded by Greg Westbrook. The vote was unanimous on this selection. Dan will follow up on this and finalize the time slots these bands will play. Rhoda Ride also suggested that the community groups should be contacted soon related to their participation in this activity so plans can be made. Dan will follow up on this. Dan also mentioned that in the future, maybe Lions Park could be blocked out on this date also as an option for other activities and additional parking.

- **New Programming Suggestions** - Rhoda Ride shared a listing of twenty-five suggestions she created for new program offerings and ideas with Dan. All the Commissioners are encouraged to share their programming ideas with Dan as soon as possible. Dan shared that he had contacted several local business and got sponsorship with ten of them for the "Fairy Gate" project in the local parks. Dan shared this program would be something like a scavenger hunt in all the parks which would encourage community families to visit them. There would be a token gift for those who found all the gates in all the parks. The families would come to the department to submit the fairy gate location information in order to receive the prize. Dan thanked Rhoda for her help and support with this project, and will report back at a later meeting pertaining to its' success. He also mentioned that he is planning on more involvement with the disc golf course encouraging community involvement. This might include instruction, as well as actual tournament play. John Unson made the suggestion that the "Warrior Factory" might be considered an activity for the department to participate in. Dan will investigate the costs of this, and report back at a later meeting about it's feasibility.

- **Miscellaneous Topics Discussed:**

Rhoda Ride asked Dan if a mid-month update report could be made to the Commissioners pertaining to the department activities and also if there are any concerns they should be made aware of. This can be done electronically.

Rhoda also asked for input on getting new shirts for the Commission. She suggested long-sleeved T-shirts might be considered. Everyone thought this was a good idea, so follow up will be done on getting these ordered.

Rhoda also shared the idea that during registration week that the department consider offering more evening registration opportunities, much like the Town Offices do during tax season. A brief discussion followed. Dan said he was looking into changing the times registration would occur in the future to make it more convenient for the community.

Rob Keister shared information about a charity called the, "Jack Foundation" with the Commission. This is a foundation where applications for grants can be received to build new playgrounds. Rob suggested that consideration be given to investigating this as an option to make improvements on the existing playgrounds, particularly for the Wegman Rd. park. Discussion followed and it was decided that more information is needed on this suggestion. Rob will follow up and report back at a later meeting.

- **Good of the Order:**

- Greg Westbrook - Nothing at this time.
- Brom Bianchi - Nothing at this time.
- Dan Hoock - Nothing at this time.
- Jonathan Keister - Thanked the Commission for letting him attend this meeting. His attendance will go towards credits for the Citizen in Nation/Communications badge for Eagle Scout.
- Rob Keister - Nothing at this time.
- Chris DiPonzio - I spoke with Bev and at the June meeting of the Town Board and at that time, Brom Bianchi and John Unson will renew their membership on this Commission. The Board approved the applications for the Commissioners to attend the upcoming conference. Another action was approved to address a Commission concern that Greg will explain.

- Valerie Young - Thanked Rhoda for bringing the treats to the meeting tonight.
- John Unson - Shared that fundraising for the baseball team has gone well, and thanks to the matching funds program through Dick's Sports, they are now fully funded. John encouraged everyone to support Dick's Sports since they support community activities. John also congratulated Chris DiPonzio on his daughter Merrill's recent appointment to the National Honor Society.
- Rhoda Ride - Nothing at this time.

Before the meeting ended, Greg Westbrook shared that Rhoda Ride and he had met with Town Supervisor Mark Assini recently to discuss a discrepancy noted in the salary received by the Commission Secretary. The Town Supervisor made the recommendation to the Town Board to rectify this discrepancy, and bring the salary allotment into alignment with the other town employees in the same positions. This should be effective immediately. Everyone was thanked for their efforts in doing this.

A motion was made by Rob Keister and seconded by John Unson the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 8:38PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 13 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Young
Recording Secretary