



Gates Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting

June 12, 2018



Those in attendance:

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

The meeting was called to order promptly at 7:23 PM by Rhoda Ride following the Commission having an end-of-year picnic dinner.

The minutes from the May meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Greg Westbrook and seconded by Eileen Andrews, to accept the May minutes. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes as written.

Financial Report:

A review of the May, 2018 financial report was done. The following question was raised by Rhoda Ride: on budget code line A7020.100, it was noted that the department secretarial salary was still listed as being paid. This position was dissolved several weeks ago, therefore the monies should no longer be scheduled. Dan Hoock will check into this discrepancy and report back. Following a brief discussion, a motion was made by Rob Keister and seconded by Steve Murphy to approve the financial report. The vote was unanimous to accept this report as written.

Correspondence:

Letters from Town Supervisor, Mark Assini were shared with the Commission concerning the appointment of Brom Bianchi to continue his service with the Commission until June, 2024, and also for John Unson to continue his association with the Commission until June, 2025. Everyone congratulated Brom and John on their continuing appointments. Chris DiPonzio, on behalf of the town, thanked both Brom and John for their dedication and sharing of their time and talents with the Commission.

Dan Hoock shared a letter of complaint concerning a broken water fountain at Memorial Park, along with a comment about the poor condition one of the walkway bridges is in the park. A brief discussion took place on the location of this area. Dan will follow and get more information and make sure this area is taped off for safety reasons until it can be addressed.

Evaluation of Past Programs:

Rob Keister raised a question concerning the report on the program "Trip to Boxcar & Artisan Works?" After a brief discussion, it was agreed the information on the report was correct.

Rhoda Ride raised the question as to why this trip took place as only six people had signed up to go, and the minimum number of participants for program is eight? Discussion followed pertaining to this policy reference. Rhoda shared that minimum numbers of participants for programs is listed in the Policy Manual. Discussion continued, and Dan mentioned that at times, when program numbers did not meet the minimum requirements, staff selectively chose to make exceptions to this ruling. Discussion continued and Rhoda suggested that the Policy Manual be reviewed in the near future to make sure it reflects the current needs of the department. This would also allow the specific program enrollment requirements to be reviewed and updated if necessary, so there is clear direction for interpretation. Dan Hoock asked if this pertained to all programming? Eileen Andrews shared there can be some discretionary decisions made, but the suggested numbers should always be considered the guideline to use.

Rob Keister shared that he thought the recent game night was very well planned and everyone seemed to have a good time. He also mentioned that he had some concerns about people riding a quad bike around Wegman Rd. Park. Discussion followed on this concern.

Rhoda Ride inquired about the status of the rain barrel program. Dan shared that 9-10 people had signed up to participate on Saturday.

No questions were raised about the current programming in progress. The meeting was paused at 7:28PM, in order for the Commissioners to take a brief break. The meeting reconvened at 7:57PM.

Old Business:

Dan Hoock shared an update on the status of the improvements being made at Memorial Park. The band shell is fully installed and the electrical work is done. The concrete work will be done this week, and the highway department will do the landscaping/grading.

Dan also shared that he has checked into having a sidewalk installed at Westgate to extend from the parking area to the pickle ball courts. He also mentioned he was checking into signage for the basketball courts that would indicate these courts are specifically for family use only. These are the courts that have the lower basketball nets with breakaway rims. A brief discussion followed related to electrical work done at Memorial park and how the highway department will repair the site where the road had to be dug up.

Dan shared a map/graphic sheet with the tentative layout of how the Summer Celebration might be. A detailed discussion followed in the following areas of concerns raised:

- Concerns about the parking areas allotted for participants/will they be adequate for the expected crowd?
- Concerns about the area where the community groups will set up and how parking would work for volunteer workers.
- Concerns about where food would be available and convenience for people to get to it.
- Concerns about transporting people from the distant parking areas (St. Theodore's parking after 6PM/Benson parking lot, etc.) and possibly consider renting/leasing large golf carts to transport people, or use the 14 passenger department bus to move people also.
- Extensive discussion took place over concerns of the slated "casino games" and what they would entail. This discussion included specific games (Black Jack, Roulette & Texas HoldEm,) the exchange of funding and prizes offered, where the profit monies would be donated, etc. Strong opinions were shared that this might not be the appropriate format for this type of activity to occur. Rhoda Ride and Eileen Andrews stated this event is meant to be a family oriented community function and that a "gaming" option not be offered, but have that activity held at a different date/time.
- The suggestion of having a tent with chairs/tables in it for people to sit and relax while eating and listening to music was made.
- Suggestions of activities that could take place was made (e.g. - trivia contest, golf chipping contest, etc.)

Dan will take all the information shared by the Commission and reassess the options offered as suggestions and make the proper adjustments to the current format of this program event.

Rhoda Ride asked for input from the Commission concerning the project she was been working on related to the renaming of the Westgate Park. All the Commissioners agreed this was a good idea and that she should following up with the plans/research for this project. This name change event is projected to take place in October, 2018.

Rhoda also shared that a review of the Master Plan, along with the Policy Manual would be appropriate to do in the very near future by the Commission. In the recent past, the updates made in these documents was done by the staff. Rhoda mentioned the items that pertained to the accreditation process could be removed, and this would allow for less redundancy in the documents. All agreed this was a good idea.

Rhoda also mentioned that she and Greg Westbrook will be looking into getting long sleeved collared shirts for the Commissioners over the summer break.

New Business:

The listing of summer staff was shared with the Commissioners. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Brom Bianchi and seconded by Eileen Andrews to approve this staff listing. This motion was passed unanimously. The listing of the Star Camp staff was also shared with the Commission. After a brief discussion, all agreed the staffing was adequate. Dan mentioned that 52 participants have already signed up for this program, and that possibly, in the future, a second Star Camp offering might be considered. A brief discussion followed.

Events for 2019 was discussed. Dan shared the following ideas for new programming. They are:

- "The Great Gates Campout." This would be a program run in all the the Gates parks where community members are invited to come and campout with their families. This might include people with RV's, pop-up campers, or just tents. It would be a good opportunity for people to try out camping for a first time experience under controlled circumstances. Rob Keister mentioned this might be a good opportunity to get the local Boy Scout troops involved to share their expertise.
- Hold a "Youth Sports" Extravaganza in conjunction with TSE. This might encourage more community involvement as well as give an additional opportunity for more use of our community parks. A brief discussion following on this option.
- Dan inquired about the Summer Celebration for 2019. It was decided to hold it at Memorial Park (which Dan will reserve) and it will be the second Saturday of the August.

Miscellaneous:

Dan Hoock asked the Commissioners for their input on how they felt the past six months have gone related to programming, staff adjustments, physical changes at the parks, etc. The following are highlights of this conversation:

- Rhoda Ride asked Dan how he thought things were going? He shared it's been a learning curve, but he feels strongly that he has a much better understanding for the expectations of his position and he is focused and motivated to introduce new ideas and programming.

- Rhoda shared that she has the ongoing concern that very little is offered for adult programming, and this should be a priority. Although the two senior clubs are active, not all adult activities need to revolve around their activities. Other offerings should be made available to those interested in participating in them.
- Dan shared that he has been given permission to add a position to the department related to hiring someone with credentials specific to recreational programming, and has already taken the Civil Service exam. This would not be a secretarial position. Also, as an FYI, Dan recently passed his testing requirement.
- Discussion of programming offered in surrounding towns was mentioned, and what worked best for them. We would like to avoid duplication, but new ideas are always welcomed. Also, we must be sensitive to the demographic of our particular community and gear our programming accordingly. A new programming suggestion made was: NYS Emergency Preparedness program, etc. The Commissioners were asked to share any ideas they have with Dan directly.
- Rob Keister suggested that when the opportunity arises, and the Commissioners are out in the parks, they should ask for input from people visiting for suggestions on improving our current options and park programming. All thought this was a good idea. Steve Murphy recommended networking as much as possible to get ideas.

A general discussion continued on the above mentioned highlights, with several other opinions shared and offered. Dan will take all this input and utilize it in planning the upcoming months activities and events.

Good of the Order:

Brom Bianchi: Everyone thanks Brom for being the BBQ master tonight. Brom shared that he had given Dan information pertaining to exercise stations throughout parks as being the wave of the future. Consideration for this might be considered for our park system.

Eileen Andrews: Wished everyone a wonderful summer vacation.

Dan Hoock: Nothing at this time.

John Unson: Shared he will be retiring from his coaching responsibilities this summer to focus more on his family. Everyone wished him well.

Valerie Young: Wished everyone a good summer.

Greg Westbrook: Wished everyone a good summer, and shared he would be missing our September meeting as he will be traveling.

Rob Keister: Wished everyone a good summer. Rob will be camping most of the summer. He also mentioned he has a new email address which he sent to everyone tonight, and asked that we update our contacts list.

Rhoda Ride: Thanked everyone for their help with the picnic dinner that preceded this meeting, and wished everyone a wonderful summer.

Steve Murphy: Thanked everyone for bringing all the good food for the picnic.

Chris DiPonzio: Thanked everyone for the enjoyable evening and mentioned the upcoming school play for this year is "Guys & Dolls."

A motion was made by Eileen Andrews and seconded by Rob Keister the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 11 at 6:30 PM at the Department conference room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Young
Recording Secretary