

MINUTES OF MEETING

Longbrook Park Commission

January 4, 2017

The Longbrook Park Commission conducted a meeting on Wednesday, January 4, 2017 in room 213 of Stratford Town Hall, 2725 Main Street, Stratford, CT pursuant to notice duly posted.

1. CALL TO ORDER: 7:02 p.m.

PRESIDING: Chairman Scott Farrington-Posner

COMMISSION MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Council members Scott Farrington-Posner, and Tina Manus (as substitute for Philip Young), electorate members James McGuire, Jon Merriam and Roger Salls.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE — Dog park subcommittee co-chair John Rich, Dog Park subcommittee and Short Beach Commission member Bob Jaekle, Dog Park Subcommittee representative Paula Lockshire

DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED DURING MEETING

- Appointments to Subcommittee for Longbrook Park Ice Rink — submitted by Chairman Farrington-Posner
- Discussion points for Longbrook Park Development Plans — submitted by Commissioner Merriam

2. PUBLIC FORUM — The following residents addressed the Longbrook Park Commission:

- Robert Jaekle, 175 Twin Oaks Terrace re: Involvement with Sea Scouts, Project Greensweep, Short Beach Park clean-up
- Tom Galatie, 492 King Street re: Penders field – locking up when not in use, trash, damaged scoreboard
- John Rich, 68 Willow Ave. re: Dog Park

3. COMMISSIONERS RESPONSE TO PUBLIC FORUM

- Commissioner McGuire re: trash and damage to the park
- Commissioner Merriam re: Project Greensweep, police presence at park
- Council member Manus re: damage to windows of homes that abut the park, dog park
- Commissioner Salls re: dog park
- Chairman Farrington-Posner re: nets at fields, scoreboard damage, Project Greensweep

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Meeting of November 7, 2016. A motion was made by Ms. Manus, seconded by Mr. Salls to approve the foregoing minutes. The motion passed unanimously.
- Meeting of December 6, 2016. A motion was made by Mr. Merriam, seconded by Mr. McGuire to approve the foregoing minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Park Maintenance Report — Various reports of vandalism, securing the property, permitting and pond drainage are major concerns.
- b. Status of Ice skating rink — Meeting took place with the Attorney, Public Works personnel and insurance reps. Ms. Manus reported the ice rink is in use and a sporting goods establishment has rented skates. Mr. Farrington-Posner reported that the ice rink is safe and secure. Fencing, tension wiring are in place. The actual cost for the rink is much less than originally estimated. Ms. Manus and Mr. Farrington-Posner both concur that the rink is a positive addition to the park.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Appoint members to Subcommittee for Ice Rink — the following persons are nominated to the Subcommittee for the ice rink: Kayne Bosma - chairman, Sean Haubert, Tina Manus, Brooke Miron, Mark Scheck, Joseph Sorrentino, Kyle Corcoran, Kevin Haglund, Jason Mis, Richard Fredette, Chad Esposito

A motion was made by Mr. McGuire seconded by Mr. Salls to approve the appointments of the foregoing persons to the Ice Rink subcommittee. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Amend Hours of Operation for Ice Rink – Discussion took place re: Town officials open and close the rink. No supervision exists at the rink.

A motion was made by Mr. Salls, seconded by Ms. Manus to amend the previous approved hours of operation to: Seven days a week 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. weather permitting. The motion passed unanimously.

- c. Pender's Field — a presentation will take place next month by Chad Esposito.

A motion was made by Mr. Merriam, seconded by Mr. McGuire to place the foregoing item on the table. The motion passed unanimously.

- d. Dog Park Subcommittee presentation — Ms. Lockshire conducted the presentation via PowerPoint.

Waiver of Rules — A motion was made by Mr. McGuire, seconded by Mr. Merriam to waive the rules to allow all members of the public that are present at this meeting to pose questions/comments to Ms. Lockshire. The motion passed unanimously.

Questions/Comments:

Mr. Salls: In favor of site “A”.

Mr. Merriam: re: social media comments, resident feedback focusing on concern for noise

Ms. Manus: re: In favor of site “A”, ample parking, “woody way”

Mr. Rich: re: points from Animal Control Officer concerning key card system that will electronically close the dog park when there is a conflict with other events. The current dog activity that exists in Longbrook Park is not controlled.

Mr. Farrington-Posner: Currently, dogs are off leash in the park.

Ms. Miron: Favors site "A".

Dick Capozza: likes both sites, Dog Park is needed for Longbrook

Jen Benai: Supports locations

Mr. Jaekle: Dogs off leash

Ms. Hernandez: favors site "A".

e. Recommendation to Town Council by Longbrook Park Commission regarding Dog Park

A motion was made by Mr. Salls, seconded by Mr. Merriam to refer to Town Council with favorable recommendation the location of site "A" (Prim Street area) for the dog park in Longbrook Park. The motion passed with 2 in favor, Mr. McGuire opposed and Mr. Farrington-Posner and Ms. Manus abstaining from voting.

Discussion continued re: site "B" is not rejected.

f. Other New Business

Mr. Merriam presented the above cited "Comprehensive Planning and development of Longbrook Park". The Commission will review the plan for next month and set a priority list. The goal: Making the Park better. Discussion went on re: suggestion for "Friends of Longbrook Park"

A motion was made by Mr. Merriam, seconded by Mr. Salls to place the foregoing item on the table. The motion passed unanimously.

7. ADJOURNMENT – Hearing no other business, Mr. Farrington-Posner called for a motion to adjourn at 9:01 p.m. A motion was made by Mr. Merriam, seconded by Mr. Salls and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Cabral - Secretary