

Parks and Recreation Committee

February 2, 2017

The Parks & Recreation Committee held a regular meeting on Thursday, February 2, 2017 in Council Chambers of Stratford Town Hall as duly posted.

Members Present: Mr. Jaekle, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Rich, Ms. Antezzo, Mr. Hoydick, Mr. Marcone, Mr. Salerno, Mr. Bauer

Members Absent: Mr. Kadeem, Alternate: Ms. Calzone

Others Present: Recreation Superintendent, Pat Patusky, Parks Superintendent, Chad Esposito

Call to Order: In the absence of Chairman Kadeem, Mr. Hoydick called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – Mr. O'Brien made a motion to approve the minutes of January 5th with the correction that Mr. Salerno was present. The motion was seconded by Mr. Marcone. The motion carried unanimously.

Projects and Reports

- a. **5-Year Plan** – Ms. Patusky reviewed 5 Yr. Plan Draft and suggested in the letter that Ed Matosian be recognized for the previous work he has done on the 5-Year Plan. **Mr. Salerno made a motion to include in the letter recognition for Mr. Matosians' previous work on the 5-Year Plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jaekle. The motion carried unanimously.**

Ms. Antezzo suggested adding a passage at Longbrook Park that would be ADA accessible. Mr. Jaekle would like to have wording on this passage to include all parks. Mr. Bauer questioned if the items were listed according to their priority. Mr. Hoydick noted the three (3) main priorities would be lacrosse field, Longbrook net and DeLuca Field backstop. Funds for the Longbrook net are available and this project will be started in the spring because of safety concerns. Mr. Hoydick suggested Mr. Esposito get prices for DeLuca backstop, lacrosse field and tennis courts. Tennis courts approximately \$700K, DeLuca backstop approximately \$80-100K and Lacrosse field approximately \$150K. Mr. Esposito feels DeLuca backstop should be a priority because of safety issues. **Mr. Rich made a motion to send to the Town Council with a favorable recommendation the DeLuca field backstop because of safety issues. The motion was seconded by Mr. Salerno. The motion carried 7-1 with Ms. Antezzo voting in opposition.**

Committee members discussed Ella Grosso pool and clay courts to be redone with post tension concrete.

Mr. Salerno made a motion to table 5-Year Plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. O'Brien. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rich made a motion to take Item I. Dog Park off the table. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jaekle. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Jaekle distributed and reviewed Dog Park Final Report and suggested the Committee make a motion to approve this item. **Ms. Antezzo made a motion for the Parks & Recreation Committee to accept the Dog Park Final Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stelmack. The motion carried unanimously.** Mr. Hoydick noted that Chairman Kadeem would like only two (2) recommendations plus the WPCA recommendation to go to the Town Council. Committee members agreed that the two top choices for the dog park would be Roosevelt Forest or Longbrook park site A or B. Mr. David, Chairman of the Roosevelt Forrest Commission, noted although a dog park is needed there are drawbacks to the Roosevelt Forest recommendation i.e Stratford Police Department shooting range, Yale School of Forestry and the ranger station would need abatement.

Resident of 263 Allyndale Road, spoke in opposition of Site A at Longbrook Park noting it is too close to houses.

Mr. Capozzi, Elm Street, spoke in favor of the Longbrook Park location.

Mr. Marcone feels Longbrook Park would be the better location since it is centrally located, but Roosevelt Forest would be feasible as a second option.

Mr. Llewelyn, Town Council, suggested Site B at Longbrook Park would be the best option due to the fact that it is set farther away from houses in the area. Ms. Patusky noted that Site B would be intrusive on tennis players.

Ms. Patusky received an email from Amy Wiltsie in opposition of the dog park at Longbrook Park.

Mr. Rich made a motion that Roosevelt Forest and Longbrook Park sites for the dog park be sent to the Town Council with a favorable recommendation and be considered as finalists. Ms. Antezzo made a friendly amendment to just include Longbrook Park Site B. The motion was seconded by Ms. Antezzo and carried unanimously.

Mr. O'Brien made a motion to include the WPCA Site as an alternative location. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hoydick. The motion failed 6-2 with Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Hoydick voting in favor of the WPCA site. Ms. Patusky noted that the anonymous donor does not share the WPCA concerns.

Mr. Hoydick made a motion to send to the Town Council with a favorable recommendation the removal of the ranger station at Roosevelt Forest if this is the agreed upon location. The motion was seconded by Ms. Antezzo. The motion carried unanimously.

Continuing items

a. Frank DeLuca Field – No Report

b. Short Beach Commission –Mr. Jaekle questioned the conversion of the lacrosse field to a soccer field in the 5-Year Plan. This will be stricken from the draft.

Mr. Jaekle distributed and reviewed “Pavilion Rental Process and Fees”. Committee discussed over-time pay and contract issues, discussed raising rental fee to offset maintenance cost. Ms. Patusky noted that pavilion rentals and beach sticker fees are not separated. Pavilion rentals approximately \$40-45,000. Fees have not been raised since 2013.

Mr. Jaekle distributed and reviewed “Proposed Ordinance for the New Youth Campground at Short Beach”. Discussion ensued on permits for camping area. **Mr. Rich made a motion to send Campground at Short Beach to Ordinance with a favorable recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jaekle. The motion carried unanimously.**

c. Boothe Park – no report

d. Maximize Use of School Facilities – Meeting is scheduled with J. Robinson, Superintendent of Schools.

e. Tennis Courts, Platform Tennis and Pickle Ball –Mr. Esposito reported the tennis courts are on the CIP.

f. Athletic Fields – Mr. O’Brien referred to “Recognition of Individuals Chapter 27”. This item will be tabled. **Mr. Bauer made a motion to name lacrosse field Corcoran/Viner Field. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rich. The motion carried unanimously.**

g. Longbrook Park –Mr. Salerno made a motion to send to the Town Council with a favorable recommendation that Penders Field at Longbrook park be locked and accessible by permit only. The motion was seconded by Mr. Marcone. The motion carried unanimously.

h. Roosevelt Forest – none

i. Dog Park – See above

Old Business

a. South End Splash Park –CBGP meeting on February 15th at 6:00 p.m.

b. Memorial for Larry Miller – Discussion

New Business – None

Members Comments/Concerns – None

Seeing no other business to discuss, Mr. O'Brien made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Salerno. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

Gail DeCilio