

Parks and Recreation Committee

April 27, 2016

The Parks & Recreation Committee held a regular meeting on Wednesday, April 27, 2016 in Room 213 of Stratford Town Hall as duly posted.

Members Present: Chairman Kadeem, Mr. Jaekle, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Rich, Mr. Marcone

Alternates Present: Ms. Calzone, Mr. Bauer

Members Absent: Ms. Antezzo, Mr. Stelmack, Mr. Hoydick, Mr. Salerno

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

Call to Order: Chairman Kadeem called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – Mr. Rich made a motion to approve the minutes of March 27, 2016. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jaekle. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rich made a motion to waive the rules to take **Dog Park** out of order. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jaekle. The motion carried unanimously.

Paula Lockshier, representing dog park, distributed and reviewed "Stratford Dog Park Proposal, April 2016". She noted that it is the dog owners who are liable for their animals' actions, also noting that volunteers would be responsible for keeping location clean. She discussed three (3) possible locations for the park. Committee members were in agreement that Beacon Point Road/Hunter Haven Site/Greenway Entry was the best possible site. Ms. Patusky distributed and reviewed proposed dog park site plan. Mr. Rich informed the members that he has had positive feedback on this location. Mr. Esposito feels this is the most viable location for the park. The only concern of Ms. Patusky would be the eventual development of the Army Engine Plant and signage which states "area subject to previous filling operations" which may mean there may be Raybestos' waste on the site. Mr. O'Brien concurred this would be a great site for park. Chairman Kadeem feels it would have to go through the Mayor to contact Animal Control for their input.

Mr. Rich made a motion to have Mr. Kadeem contact the Mayor, other agencies and STARS for input. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jaekle. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Jaekle made a friendly amendment to add contacting Greenway and any other Committees to be impacted by having the dog park in this area. Mr. Rich seconded the amendment. Amendment carried unanimously

Mr. Rich made a motion to request Mr. Esposito to go forward to help develop a budget to vet out site. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jaekle. The motion carried unanimously.

Projects and Reports

- a. **In-line skating** – Ms. Patusky informed Committee members the \$200K which was in the Capital Improvement Plan has been removed and there is no longer funding available for the skate park. Committee members discussed pros and cons of restoring funding to the park and reached agreement they would not look to have funding restored. **Mr. O'Brien made a motion to strike this item from the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Marcone. The motion carried unanimously.**
- b. **5-Year Plan** – Ms. Patusky has an updated priority list and meeting will be held on May 11th to finalize this list.

Continuing items

- a. **Frank DeLuca Field** – Mr. Esposito reported maintenance has begun. Agronomics program has been set-up. Noted backstop fencing is a huge issue. Checking on painting. Mr. Rich noted there is significant issues with irrigation, fencing, and backstop. **Mr. Rich made a motion to have Mr. Esposito run numbers on capital improvements. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jaekle. The motion carried unanimously.**
- b. **Short Beach Commission** – Mr. Jaekle questioned procedure for obtaining beach wheelchairs. Ms. Patusky noted must be called in one (1) day prior and chair will be available at lifeguard station.
- c. **Boothe Park** – Opening day May 15th. In the process of routine maintenance.
- d. **Maximize Use of School Facilities** – None
- e. **Tennis Courts, Platform Tennis and Pickle Ball** – Longbrook court to open first week of May.
- f. **Athletic Fields** – Ms. Patusky distributed field reservations for May. Reported that portables have been removed at Nichols School. Committee members are happy to see Pirhala Field utilized for sports.
- g. **Longbrook Park** – Mr. Esposito reported field being used every day. Bathroom facilities are open and splash will be opening soon.
- h. **Roosevelt Forest** – Mr. Esposito reported he has been at the forest numerous times this month. Members discussed rental of pavilions and Eagle Scout projects for the forest.

Old Business - None

New Business

- a. **South End Splash Park** – Item will be left on agenda
- b. **Memorial for Larry Miller** – No Report
- c. **Longbrook Park Skating Rink** – No Report
- d. **Stoneybrook Field** – Mr. Esposito reported large amount of field work has been completed. **Mr. Jaekle made a motion to strike this item from the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. O'Brien. The motion carried unanimously.**
- e. **Memorial for Bud Underwood** – Ms. Antezzo is working on this project
- f. **Dog Park** – See above
- g. **Greenway** – Will be contacted for input on dog park

Mr. Bauer discussed Wooster irrigation system. Mr. O'Brien informed the Committee that Softball Hall of Fame will be located at Erin's Gym possibly by September.

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. Marcone. The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

Gail De Cilio

Recording Secretary