

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call

Commissioners in attendance included:

Gary Zuckerman
Joseph Sack
Benedict Salanitro

3. Minutes

The minutes were not adopted because the Commissioners in attendance did not make a quorum.

4. Park Management Report

Park Director Fred Gioffre read the Park Management Report and he was later joined by Assistant Park Director for Development Bill Lawyer:

Overview - *The weather became much more wintry from later January through the end of this report period. The January average temperature was still 2 degrees above normal. Many people were sledding and cross-country skiing after the 24-inch snow on Jan. 23. The park got a lot of coverage in the local media. We are working with the Town of Rye's new chief of staff, Debbie Reisner, to make a smooth transition in preparation for the 2016 Park beach season.*

Maintenance - *John Zicca, the park contracted handyman, carried out regular cleanup operations. We worked with the grounds contractor to be more careful in removing snow from the sidewalks, so as to not damage the flowerbed near the corner of Dearborn and Forest Avenue or the daffodils along the stone walls. The proposed pond maintenance fee was higher for 2016, but Bishop Nowotnik and Bill Lawyer got them to reduce it to last year's level, and we would only pay more if we had increased need for treatment. Last summer was unusually sunny and dry, which led to increased algae growth requiring more than normal treatment.*

Parking, Security and Safety - *As per the Rye Town Park Commission's (RTPC) vote at the December meeting to prohibit smoking in the Park except on the paved parking area, we started work determining where smoking areas with cigarette butt receptacles could be located. The new policy will be publicized in the coming months, including the posting of new signs.*

On Feb 9 Bill Lawyer spoke with Ken Puccia, assistant park director of Playland, regarding how they enforce and manage their similar regulation. Smoking is not permitted in the amusement park, pool or beach. They permit smoking in the fountain circle area and most of the boardwalks, except the area near the pool/beach operations.

Smokers have access to benches in the permitted areas. Smoking is also permitted in the parking lot. The Park does not provide cigarette butt receptacles. There is no specific staff member assigned to enforcement.

The City of Rye updated all its website information about the revised leash law for Rye Town Park. At the Jan 27 City Council meeting, police Lieutenant Scott Craig provided an update on the enforcement of the policy so far. And, he answered questions from council members about the policy as raised by park-goers. Bill Lawyer wrote a report about the discussion for the Rye Record.

Beach Operations - Nothing to report.

Finances - We are still waiting for a complete financial report for the park's operations in 2015. Bill Lawyer and Fred Gioffre met to discuss the proposed budget for 2016.

Personnel - Some of the management topics reviewed with Ms. Reisner were the operations manual, personnel policies, job descriptions, orientation procedures, and the Code of Conduct and Ethics document.

Programs, Permits and Fees - Bill Lawyer had further discussions with Debbie Bisaccia on January 21 regarding the proposed Stand Up Paddle fundraiser. He determined that the tide conditions might work on Sept. 17. Debbie had since learned that the sponsor's goal was to have more than 1000 participants and RTP not big enough. Jones Beach has been selected instead.

Bill Lawyer prepared a draft facility rental agreement with Dr. Jane Riley of Rye for the Angelman Syndrome Foundation Walk scheduled for Sunday, May 22nd.

Bill Lawyer, Fred Gioffre and Terry Fanelli submitted ideas for possible increases in park user fees to help handle increases in operating costs, including the New York higher minimum wage.

Park Development

Bill Lawyer spoke about partnership opportunities for sponsorship of summer events at RTP at the Rye Chamber of Commerce's February meeting. He also made more updates to the park's web site. He also participated in a draft survey that will be used to help promote Rye Chamber members.

The "Greater Playland Working group had two meetings to focus on environmental and cultural projects coordinated by Rye Town Park, the Children's Museum, the Rye Historical Society and Edith Read Sanctuary. This would include the walker's beach path guide and coastal shoreline resiliency improvement.

With Debbie Reisner's approval Bill Lawyer sent out press release regarding the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to local media. Items appeared in Rye Patch, Rye Hamlet Hub, and the Rye Record.

Bill Lawyer reached out to the Friends of Rye Town Park (FRTP) and the Rye Town Park Advisory Committee (RTPAC) of the City of Rye to bring them up to date on the RFQ. Russ Gold of the RTPAC has contacted the FRTP about a joint "stakeholders" meeting.

They also discussed the idea of holding another public "community conversation" meeting at the park in April or May.

Bill Lawyer and Bishop Nowotnik joined Debbie Reisner in leading the February 4 RTP 'walk-through' for prospective RFQ proposal submitters. A number of City of Rye staff participated. Ms. Reisner got everyone's contact information.

We were approached by Midland School parents about developing community service projects at the park in May. They also approached the FRTP. Bill will work with them any way he can. Daisy (6-7 year old) Scout troop leader Nicole Van Maanen also contacted us regarding spring volunteer projects. He will work with them any way he can.

Discussion ensued regarding the scheduling of a community conversation about RTP in March or April at a time when members of the community, RTP commissioners and staff would be able to attend. Mr. Zuckerman and Commissioner Sack agreed the Commission should get a date on the calendar at the March meeting.

Commissioner Salanitro asked if the FORTP were planning to be involved in maintaining the pond in the coming season. The FORTP are providing benches and spearheading the tree care program. He and President Zuckerman asked that the staff coordinate with FORTP in the coming month to determine where the organization will be directing its resources and where the Commission should fill in with its own initiatives. Mr. Lawyer will invite the RORTP to either meet with staff or come to the next meeting.

Mr. Zuckerman added that it was his view that it is the responsibility of the RTPC to operate the park. The FORTP are adjunct and a honored help. Bill Lawyer pointed out that the FORTP also hire a contractor to plant flower beds including the garden at the corner of Dearborn and Forrest Avenues.

Commissioner Sack asked in the absence of Sam Terenzi, the RTP's late accountant, who would be handling the financial analysis and reporting for the park. Mr. Zuckerman reported that Comptroller David Byrnes has stepped into the accounting role temporarily to prepare the documents for the final audit. Mr. Sack asked what the commission has to do to retain a new accountant. Mr. Zuckerman responded that the Town has been interviewing accountants and would make a recommendation by the next meeting.

Mayor Sack expressed his hope that the hiring of an accountant would take advantage of economies of scale to get a low price for accounting services.

Mayor Sack then commented on the new smoking policy. He was surprised RTP would bring in receptacles when the county doesn't feel the need to have them. Mr. Gioffre reported that RTP has always allowed smoking all over the park w/o receptacles.

5. Pond-Lake Proposal

President Zuckerman reported that according to RTP legal counsel Paul Noto, the Commission does not need a resolution because it has used them in the past. As to the question of whether it was necessary to go out to bid for this project, Mr. Nowotnik reported that the Commission had put the pond care project out to bid three or four years ago. The selection of the current provider was made at that time. Moreover, since then, everyone agrees that the service has been satisfying to all and more effective than when the RTP staff was caring for the pond themselves. Mayor Sack agreed that he was satisfied that we are following the law.

6. Financial Report

With regard to the Budget Discussion, Mr. Zuckerman pointed out that the Commission would not be voting on the budget because of the absence of a quorum. Mr. Sack observed that it would be necessary to raise at least some salaries up to minimum wage. And that to do so would necessitate an increase in revenue. Mr. Zuckerman agreed that it would be important to treat all staff fairly. No matter what the thinking, it was the consensus that the budget would will have to raise revenue to keep pace with increased expenditures.

Mayor Sack recommended that the budget use the number of days to calculate projections for 2016. Mr. Nowotnik reported that a standard RTP season contains 102 days. However, every season varies due to bad weather. When that happens, the park directors send people home early or don't open at all. That would be why labor and revenue both dropped below projections in 2013. A bad weather Saturday is much worse than a bad weather Tuesday.

Financial Results from 2015: Mr. Nowotnik presented a brief summary of the unaudited and not yet conclusive results of 2015. RTP produced record level revenues of \$100,057 with total expenses of \$919,000. On an unaudited and still incomplete basis, this has RTP showing a net operating profit of \$137,000 with capital expenses of \$62,929. He concluded by observing that all in all, it was a record year due to good weather and an extra operating week.

Discussion of fees: Mayor Sack observed that he was not in favor of a policy that would include charging fees for people entering the beach on fireworks nights and increasing fees for seniors. Commissioner Salanitro observed the imperative of approving the new fee schedule as soon as possible. It was observed that one way to proceed is to raise rates for everyone coming into the park. Mr. Zuckerman observed that there are many factors that could potentially have an impact on financial results, but all would ultimately hinge on the weather being good or bad. It was suggested

that it might be helpful to adjust Rye Town Park fees in line with any changes being made by Playland which abuts RTP's southern border.

Rye Town Park Operations and Restaurant RFQ: The RFQ's schedule for submissions was reviewed.

Timeline:

- RFQ Issued January 20, 2016
- Information meeting and site visit: February 4, 2016, 11am
- Deadline for submission of written questions: March 4, 2016
- Date written questions will be answered: March 11, 2016
- RFQ Submission Deadline March 18, 2016, 4pm
- Top responses selected April 19, 2016
- Presentations by top proposers May 17, 2016
- Selection of Top Proposal June 21, 2016

Debbie Reisner briefly reviewed how the Walk-through had gone on February 4. Five groups participated in a tour lead by Bishop Nowotnik, Bill Lawyer and Ms. Reisner. Mr. Zuckerman said he received calls and spoke with three of the people who expressed interest and was hopeful we would be receiving an RFQ from all of them. He also observed that he had not yet spoken with anyone from the City of Rye, which had sent staff to participate in the Walk-through. Mr. Zuckerman briefly outline that this is an RFQ process not a request for full-blown proposals. The Commission will have to decide how to proceed once it assesses the submissions it receives, whether there is one response or five responses.

7. Old Business

Mr. Salanitro sought and received a "go ahead" to once again begin working with architect Lisa Easton on the development of a more affordable ramp for the middle gate. He agreed to pick up the plan from where work had left off at the end of 2015.

8. Motion to adjourn. Voice vote to approve. Adjourned.