



RYE TOWN PARK COMMISSION
Minutes of January 19, 2016 Meeting

Attendance:

Gary Zuckerman, Chair
Joseph Sack, Mayor of the City of Rye
Paul Rosenberg
Benedict Salanitro
Julie Killian

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Moment of Silence for the Commission's accountant Saverio Terenzi, who passed away in January 2016.
3. Comments from the Public

Linda Wells, representing the Friends of Rye Town Park welcomed the new Commissioners. She asked about the status of the sewer project being planned. Commissioner Salanitro responded that the bids were due in January 20, 2016. It was anticipated that the bid would be awarded without delay and that the project would start in middle of March. Work would proceed from both ends simultaneously. By working in that way, the park portion would be concluded first so that by the time the park's season is in full swing, construction would no longer be an issue for park-goers. He added that both park benches would have to be temporarily relocated. The engineering consultant will be provided with a contact sheet of all stakeholders for regular communications and progress reports.

4. Park Management Report:

Park Director Fred Gioffre reported that the park is closed. Therefore, there has been a minimum of activity. Contractor John Zicca has been on-site regularly to clean up and collect trash. There have been many walkers due to the good weather. Director Gioffre reported that Bill Lawyer has already contacted Pond Lake Management Company to get started early on the DEC application.

There was a spray paint incident that was cleaned immediately. Park staff has spoken with the Rye Police Department (RPD) about increasing patrols. In addition, since the Commission voted to prohibit smoking in the park at its December 2015 meeting, the staff has started work to determine where cigarette receptacles can be located. The new policy will be publicized in the coming months along with the posting of signs. According to the RPD, the annual permit to have dogs off leash from 6:00 – 9:00 AM will cost \$25 and that 400 people signed up in 2015.

Finances: with the illness and passing of Sam Terenzi, Bishop Nowotnik is working on pulling together unaudited financial numbers. As per Commission instructions, a bill has already been submitted to the City of Rye for its share of operations.

Mr. Lawyer has been in contact with the people organizing the "Stand Up and Paddle for the Cure" event which was presented at the December meeting. Event organizers anticipate 500 people will participate on Saturday, September 10. However, because the tides at RTP will be too low on the appointed day and

time, organizers have indicated they will need a new location. The Commissioners expressed their hope that RTP will still be able to participate in some way.

Staff also worked with the MAC Angels Foundation on their annual New Year's Day Polar Park Plunge. The [MAC Angels Foundation](#) is dedicated to supporting families living with Lou Gehrig's Disease. About 80 people participated. Preparations are also underway for a facility use agreement for an Angel Man Walk on Sunday, May 22nd. In addition, flyers have been sent to Rye City, Port Chester and Rye Brook Chambers of Commerce to promote sponsorship opportunities for Twilight Tuesday Concerts and other events.

5. Financial Report:

Former RTP Secretary Bishop Nowotnik presented the preliminary budget for 2016, explaining that it is based on the last actual budget report produced by Mr. Terenzi, which was from October 2015.

6. Budget discussion.

Mr. Nowotnik explained that because 2015 was such an unusual year for the park, 2016 projections were based on an average of the preceding three years (2012-2014). 2015 was an anomaly because there were seven more business days than in prior years and the weather was exceptionally good.

Chairman Zuckerman asked if Park Director Gioffre's recommendations for capital expenditures were included in budget numbers that had just been presented. Mr. Nowotnik replied that \$90,000 was included in the budget for capital expenditures but that number was not exact. He continued by explaining that the largest project in the plan is the ADA-compliant beach gate, for which exact costs were still unknown.

Commissioner Salanitro asked that staff circulate to the Commissioners a copy of the two-year capital plan that had been approved in 2015.

Mr. Nowotnik pointed out that this budget was a working draft intended to aid the Commission in beginning discussion. He observed, for example, that the 2016 budget will contain a number of changes such as an increase in the minimum wage to \$8.75 or \$9. Mr. Zuckerman asked for a projection for 2016 based on last year's wage schedule.

Chairman Zuckerman also asked when the budget should be passed. Mr. Nowotnik replied that the absolute latest date would be March and that February would be better because the permit mailing would need to be ready to go in April. Moreover, any increase in the fee schedule would need to be included in that as well. Commissioners asked the staff to present a recommended proposal for a 2016 fee schedule.

7. Old Business:

Rye Town Park Operations RFQ.

RTP Secretary Debbie Reisner read out the proposed schedule. Commissioner Sack suggested the timeline might be a bit aggressive. He suggested the Commission should be prepared to extend deadlines if the RFQ doesn't elicit the response desired. Chairman Zuckerman said the Commission could be flexible regarding all dates. But it would be useful to keep to the timeline proposed to determine interest. After much discussion it was agreed that the Commission can be flexible with all the dates if necessary. Commissioner Salanitro specified that all questions that are submitted in response to the RFQ must be submitted in writing so that all participants can benefit from the answers.

It was agreed that the RFQ would be distributed to the RTP's original distribution list of 50 developers and advertised in a Tri-State development magazine, as well as to a handful of people who have requested to be kept up-to-date on this matter. In addition, restaurants and local restaurant groups such as the Z Group in Greenwich and the Pearl Group in Rye would be contacted as well. Commissioner Sack said he

will put RTP staff in touch with the Rye Golf Club and provide us with the list the Whitby Castle used in its recent RFP. He also suggested we reach out to the Journal News, Westmore news, Hometown media Group and other local news outlets.

It was agreed that the RFQ's deadlines would be aligned with the Commissions' regularly scheduled meetings in April, May and June. Further, the Commission will make a determination at its March 15 meeting if a change in schedule will have to be made.

Public Comment: Emily Hurd of the City of Rye said this was the first she has heard of RFQ. She asked if there is a goal that the Commission would like to see and had the Commission put out other RFQs? Chairman Zuckerman explained the RTP had issued an earlier version of this draft a year earlier.

8. New Business

Mr. Nowotnik presented the idea of switching to the use of biometric timeclocks instead of paper punch cards for managing employee hours and payroll. This new technology could enable more efficient park management. The system would sync with RTP's payroll system and transfer records electronically. Currently, paper punch cards must be reviewed and processed both by the Assistant Park Director and in the Supervisor's office. Mr. Nowotnik went on to explain that there are two technologies for the Commission to consider. One that reads a single thumb print and the other that reads an entire palm. The Commission asked that staff prepare a report that estimates the potential time savings and presents parallel case.

Public Comment: Meighan Corbett, a neighbor of RTP said that The Rye Y uses a palm print scanner for its many employees. She posited that the Y probably found that this is the most effective and efficient way to manage time. Also is it likely that the proprietor of Seaside Johnnies would be interested in renewing. The Commissioners said he would likely be a highly interested party.

9. Motion to adjourn. Voice votes.