



RYE TOWN PARK COMMISSION MINUTES
MEETING HELD MAY 17, 2016

A regular monthly meeting of the Rye Town Park Commission was held on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 at 6:00 P.M. at the Village of Rye Brook Village Hall, 938 King Street, Rye Brook, New York in the Main Conference Room with Commission President Gary J. Zuckerman presiding.

PRESENT: in addition to Commissioner Zuckerman were Commissioners Julie Killian, Dennis Pilla, Joseph Sack, Benedict Salanitro, and Paul Rosenberg.

ALSO

PRESENT: were Town Attorney Paul Noto, Park Director Terry Fanelli and Assistant Park Director-Development William Lawyer.

ABSENT: Commission Secretary Deborah Reisner

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

William Lawyer led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. A video and an audio recorder were in use during the proceedings.

2. ROLL CALL

Commissioner Zuckerman called the meeting to order and asked Town Clerk Hope Vespia to call the roll.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Rosenberg, seconded by Commissioner Salanitro, the minutes for the meetings held March 30, 2016, April 19, 2016 and May 1, 2016 were unanimously approved as submitted.

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4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Zuckerman suggested that public comments made at this time to not reflect the Requests for Qualifications discussion and the public would be afforded time for comments at the RFQ Workshop mentioned on the agenda. There were no comments.

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5. CONSIDERING SCULPTURE INSTALLATION PROPOSAL

Meg Rodriguez, Executive Director of the Rye Arts Center located in the City of Rye and Bob Clyatt, a sculptor living in Rye at 189 Milton Road were present to support and introduce a proposed temporary installation of a sculpture at Rye Town Park. Meg Rodriguez expressed that the sculpture in Rye Town Park would bring cultural recognition, enjoyment and inspiration to residents and visitors. The League and sculptor have agreed to lend "Cope" to Rye Town Park at

no cost for up to one year and were seeking the approval from the Commission. The Rye Arts Center's Public Art Committee coordinated numerous public installations in Rye and agreed to coordinate the installation and raise funds through their membership and donor base to cover out-of-pocket transportation, installation and de-installation costs. In addition to seeking approval from the Commission, they hoped to be provided with municipal assistance and staff with masonry skills to provide the groundwork to install an 11 foot circular concrete pad onto which the piece could be secure.

Commissioner Zuckerman suggested that a list of specifications needed, such as tools, manpower and materials to be submitted to the Commission and the timeframe and location where the sculpture would be displayed be determined. Commissioner Sack advised William Lawyer to work with Meg Rodriguez and Bob Clyat to get a memo to Deborah Reisner and Marcus Serrano and they will determine what resources would be available.

Commissioner Zuckerman agreed that Commission members were in favor with this project, but concerns regarding site selection to avoid interfering with the Westchester Triathlon rout should be addressed.

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6. PARK MANAGEMENT REPORT

Terry Fanelli came to the podium to present the Park Management report. Commissioner Zuckerman congratulated Terry on her appointment as Park Director as this was her first official meeting holding her new title. Park Director Fanelli gave a detailed report.

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7. CONSIDERING APPROVAL OF RESTAURANT MENU & UNIFORM

Seaside Johnnies' menu and a photo of uniformed staff workers were available for the Commission members. Town Attorney Noto mentioned that, according to the agreement, the commission has the authority to approve both the menu and the uniforms for Seaside Johnnies and some requirements in the pricing. John Ambrose was present to answer questions prompted by the Commission. Mr. Ambrose stated that he buys top of the line seafood which costs have skyrocketed due to conservation attempts, yet the prices have not been increased in years. Commissioner Salanitro asked if there were any charges, specials or reduced prices that are not on the menu. Mr. Ambrose mentioned that occasionally they have specials during the week to hopefully encourage traffic and indicated that he will not be raising the menu prices this year.

Commissioner Sack acknowledged that the Commission appreciated that Mr. Ambrose agreed to suspend the "Tiki Shuttle" service but he had heard unconfirmed reports that it is continuing anyway. He emphasized that transporting materials or people via golf cart should no longer be conducted at all. Commissioner Rosenberg added that his main concern was the going back and forth with passengers on carts at night or times when the park was full of people. He understood an occasional need to transport equipment or food to and from the two locations.

Commissioner Pilla was concerned with insurance liability and would prefer that Mr. Ambrose drive the equipment to the “Tiki Bar” rather than use the carts. Commissioner Salanito listened to the community at large who expressed their concerns, and as a response to the community, felt that there should be no tolerance to allow this to continue and personally felt it should cease.

Park Director Fanelli asked if Mr. Ambrose would be able to continue to use the cart to transport food to the snack bar on the north end and trash from the restaurant to the dumpsters. Commissioner Zuckerman asked Mr. Ambrose to prepare a proposal that he would use the cart for such a time and for what purpose. Commissioner Rosenberg felt that Mr. Ambrose should not have to wait for next month’s meeting and all agreed that he should be allowed to use the cart for intra-park uses. Commissioner Sack felt that the intra-park uses that Terry raised are significantly different than the inter-park uses that were discussed. Commissioner Zuckerman agreed to allow Mr. Ambrose to continue the use of the cart and prepare something on paper for the next meeting, the many different uses within the park.

Commissioner Pilla mentioned that if the Board was so inclined, that the operations be delegated by the Park Director subject to the Attorney’s review. Commissioner Sack felt in fairness to Terry who requested direction and as per Mayor Pilla, that under the circumstances to delegate Terry as manager of the park, the ability to make preliminary determination as to cart usage intra-park for the snack bar and garbage and establish with Mr. Ambrose appropriate protocols that she thinks are sufficient. Commissioner Zuckerman asked Terry to let Debbie know what the proposed guidelines would be.

On motion of Commissioner Salanito, seconded by Commissioner Sack and unanimously approved to accept the menu and uniforms as presented by Seaside Johnnies.

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8. BEACH RAMP REPORT

Commissioner Zuckerman asked Commissioner Salanito to give a brief update of the beach ramp Since Commissioner Salanito had served as the point person on an earlier project to reconfigure the ramp, he is taking the lead in this instance, as well. Commissioner Salanito reported that he had met with Engineer Dolph Rotfeld on-site to look for alternative ideas to fix the beach ramp. He solicited from Dolph Rotfeld Engineering Services to put together plans, specifications and costs estimates to move forward. Mr. Rotfeld was asked to come to the podium to discuss ideas on cost. He is currently working with the Town of Rye and the City of Rye rehabilitation of the sea walls and is familiar with the Park.

On motion of Commissioner Rosenberg, seconded by Commissioner Sack, the following Resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, the access ramp at the main entrance to Oakland Beach is in need of repair, and

WHEREAS, the Rye Town Park Commission has solicited proposals to repair said ramp, and

WHEREAS, after reviewing different proposals to repair the ramp, the Rye Town Park Commission has determined that the proposals submitted were not satisfactory:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rye Town Park Commission retains the services of Dolph Rotfeld Engineering PC, 200 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, New York 10591 to undertake the design for the repair or replacement of the ramp pursuant to the proposal attached hereto dated May 13, 2016, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Dolph Rotfeld Engineering, PC is authorized to commence a preliminary design phase and cost estimates for a cost not to exceed twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000.00) without prior approval of the Rye Town Park Commission.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Commissioners Zuckerman, Rosenberg and Sack

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioners Killian and Pilla

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9. OPERATIONS RFQ WORKSHOP

Commissioner Zuckerman thanked everyone who attended the “Community Conversation” at the beach on Sunday, May 22, 2016. Staff members were terrific and the comments were very good and constructive.

Commissioner Zuckerman took the opportunity, before the RFQs would be discussed, to give a bit of history from reading minutes and other documents. He then stated that the current RFQ process resulted in five applications to manage the entire park and one application which was Seaside Johnnies to continue to operate the Restaurant. Commissioner Zuckerman believes, as other members do, that they have a duty to review those applications, but it is apparent from comments of the Commissioners and the public over several meetings that there is little appetite or mandate to turn the management of the park over to a private entity.

Commissioner Sack said he hoped that discussions regarding the City of Rye, managing the park would continue. Commissioner Zuckerman believed that it was not necessary to have an RFQ for the City of Rye to offer a proposal to manage the park. The City of Rye, as a constituent of the park in which it is located with two Rye City Council members sitting on the Commission have every right to suggest a proposal for the city to manage the park.

Commissioner Rosenberg agreed, as he had made his position very clear several times. He mentioned that Commissioner Pilla had to leave to attend another meeting and asked him to

convey a note left read that he is not interested in any of the RFQs, but is interested in considering the City of Rye's interest to share services in park maintenance as a first step.

On motion of Commissioner Sack, seconded by Commissioner Rosenberg, the following Resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, the Rye Town Park Commission published a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for development, operation and maintenance of Rye Town Park in 2014, and

WHEREAS, in response to that (RFQ), the Commission only received one (1) response and after reviewing the response, decided not to pursue further conversations with that one (1) respondent, and

WHEREAS, in November 2015, the Rye Town Park Commission agreed to reissue the RFQ with submissions due to the Commission in March 2016, and

WHEREAS, the Rye Town Park Commission received six (6) submissions that were reviewed and evaluated by the Members of the Commission, and

WHEREAS, the License Agreement with Seaside Johnnies, the current operator of the restaurant at Rye Town Park, terminates on December 31, 2016:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rye Town Park Commission shall not pursue the RFQ process for the development, operation and maintenance of Rye Town Park at the present time and will advise each respondent to the December 2015 RFQ that the Commission will take no further action on these submissions at the present time, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Rye Town Park Commission shall issue a Request for Proposals ("RFP") to operate a restaurant at Rye Town Park, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the RFP for a restaurant shall be issued in or about June 2016 with the understanding that the Commission hopes to have a new License Agreement in place in time for the 2017 season.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Commissioners Salanitro, Rosenberg and President Zuckerman

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioners Killian and Pilla

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There being no further business, on motion of Commissioner Salanitro, seconded by Commissioner Sack and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

May 17, 2016

Respectfully submitted,