



Rye Town Park
95 Dearborn Ave.
Rye, NY 10580
914 967-0965

RYE TOWN PARK COMMISSION **MEETING NOTICE & AGENDA**

Commission Members

Julie Killian – Commissioner
Dennis Pilla, Mayor-Village of Port Chester
Joseph Sack, Mayor-City of Rye
Benedict Salanitro, Commissioner
Paul Rosenberg, Mayor-Village of Rye Brook
Gary Zuckerman - President

DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 19 2016

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

**PLACE: PORT CHESTER COURT HOUSE
350 NORTH MAIN STREET
PORT CHESTER, NEW YORK**

PURPOSE: MONTHLY MEETING

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Adoption of Minutes:3/15/2016 & 3/30/2016 Special Session**
- 4. Public Comment**
- 5. Approval of Volleyball program - Angel Rosado**
- 6. Rye Library Presentation**
- 7. Park Management Report**
- 8. Discussion of Selection Process for Park Director**
- 9. Discussion of RFQ Process**
- 10. New Business**

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

MAY 17 - RYE BROOK VILLAGE HALL, 938 KING STREET, RYE BROOK
JUNE 21 - RYE NECK HIGH SCHOOL 300 HORNIDGE RD, MAMARONECK



RYE TOWN PARK COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD MARCH 15, 2016

A regular monthly meeting of the Rye Town Park Commission of the Town and the City of Rye, New York, was held on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at 6:00P.M. at the Village of Port Chester Courtroom, 350 North Main Street, Port Chester, New York with Commission President Gary J. Zuckerman presiding.

PRESENT: in addition to Commissioner Zuckerman were Commissioners Julie Killian, Paul Rosenberg, Joseph Sack and Benedict Salanitro and Commission Secretary Debbie Reisner

ALSO

PRESENT: was Town Attorney Paul Noto, Assistant Park Director – Finance Terry Fanelli, Assistant Park Director – Development William Lawyer, and Town Councilman William Villanova.

ABSENT: Dennis Pilla

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

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Supervisor Zuckerman called the meeting to order and asked Commission Secretary Debbie Reisner to call the roll.

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On a motion by Commissioner Salanitro, seconded by Commissioner Rosenberg, the minutes for January 19 and February 16 were approved

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Supervisor Zuckerman asked for comments from the public.

Diane Horner of 129 Beach Ave. Mamaroneck said that she has lived at that residence for 46 years and that her family has been using Oakland Beach since moving there. She loves the beach and loves the staff. She expressed concerned about the parking at RTP when there are events at the two pavilions.

Goldie Solomon of and identified herself as a historian for the Village of Port Chester, said that she was shocked nobody was appointed to attend the meeting from Port Chester. She went on to praise Oakland Beach and staff and expressed concern about the dog policy

Phillip Horner of 129 Beach Avenue, husband of previous speaker reported that the noise from parties was very loud and asked the Commission to consider adopting a noise level limit. Assistant Park Director - Finance Terry Fanelli, noted they never reserve parking for parties. As far as loud music, they do enforce the noise and music levels.

Russel Gold of 7 Hayward Place in Rye stated that he doesn't think permit increases should be applied to residents and would prefer increases affect non-residents only. He added that holding prices steady for residents might encourage more participation by residents of the town.

Commissioner Salanitro thanked all the Rye Neck people for coming, and encouraged more to come and bring neighbors. Mr. Zuckerman expressed the intention to hold a commission meeting at Rye Neck High School soon.

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REGARDING APPLICATION FOR WAIVER OF THE FILM PERMIT FEE

On a motion to approve by the Commissioner Salanitro, seconded by Commissioner Kilian, a waiver of the film permit fee was sought and granted to screen studies student Carly Sposta who will be filming scenes for her capstone project was granted as follows:

VOICE VOTE

AYES: Unanimous
NOES: None
ABSENT: Commissioner Pilla

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The Park Management Report was received from Assistant Park Director – Development William Lawyer.

It was decided that this year's Community Conversation would be held on May 14, 2016 from 10:00 AM -11:30 AM in the Pavilion at Rye Town Park.

A brief presentation was made by David Rasmussen of 11 Central Avenue in Port Chester, former president of Friends of Rye Town Park who reviewed the mission and accomplishments of the Friends of Rye Town Park. He described the gardens that have been re-done, the Concert and Movie Program the group sponsored and how the Friends organization has been able to raise private funds for support of the park.

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A representative of the National Alliance for Mental Health (NAMI) made a brief presentation and request for approval to hold an event to raise awareness and support for people living with mental illness and for people providing care for people living with mental illness. The proposed event is to be held on the weekend of April 30-May 1st. A motion to approve the NAMI application was made by Commissioner Salanitro and seconded by Commissioner Rosenberg. Voice vote to pass

VOICE VOTE

AYES: Unanimous
NOES: None
ABSENT: Commissioner Pilla

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Confidential Secretary Debbie Reisner walked the Commissioners through the draft budget before them. Commissioner Salanitro made a motion that the Commission go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing of changes in particular personnel at the park.

VOICE VOTE

AYES: Unanimous
NOES: None
ABSENT: Commissioner Pilla

When the Meeting Continued the budget discussion was tabled.

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CONSIDERING SUBMISSIONS TO THE COMMISSION'S OUTSTANDING REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Commissioner Zuckerman reported on questions submitted to the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and lead a brief discussion on the topic. Discussion ensued.

OLD BUSINESS

Regarding the production of a beach ramp Commissioner Salanitro noted that that he was going to speak to architect Lisa Easton to set up a plan.

Commissioner Salanitro noted the County's sewer project is being postponed until the fall in light of the activities at Playland.

There being no further business, Gary Zuckerman made a motion to adjourn and approved unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah A. Reisner
Secretary to the Rye Town Park Commission



RYE TOWN PARK COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MARCH 30, 2016

A special session of the Rye Town Park Commission of the Town and the City of Rye, New York, was held on Wednesday, March 30, 2016 at 6:00P.M. at the Rye City Hall, 1051 Boston Post Road, Rye, New York with Supervisor Gary J. Zuckerman presiding.

PRESENT: in addition to Supervisor Zuckerman were Commissioners Julie Killian, Paul Rosenberg, Dennis Pilla, Joseph Sack, Benedict Salanitro and Commission Secretary Debbie. Reisner

ALSO

PRESENT: was Town Attorney Paul Noto, Assistant Park Director – Finance Terry Fanelli, Assistant Park Director – Development William Lawyer, and Town Councilman William Villanova.

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

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Supervisor Zuckerman called the meeting to order and asked Commission Secretary Debbie Reisner to call the roll.

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Commissioner Sack observed that the public comment portion of the meeting was omitted from the agenda and asked that time be allotted for this purpose. It was agreed that the public would be invited to comment on each of agenda item as the proceedings progressed.

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Commissioner Zuckerman called for a motion to vote on a resolution to engage M Group as the accountant for the Park. Extensive discussion ensued. On a motion by Commissioner Rosenberg and a second from Commissioner Pilla, the resolution was brought to the table for further discussion. Discussion ensued.

On a motion from Commissioner Salanitro and a second from Commissioner Pilla, the following Resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, the Rye Town Park Commission is in need of accounting services for Rye Town Park operations for the 2016 season.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rye Town Park Commission hereby retains MGroup Consulting LLC, 222 Bloomingdale Road, White Plains, New York 10605 to provide accounting and financial services for Rye Town Park; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MGroup Consulting LLC shall routinely provide financial information pertaining to the Park operations to the Rye Town Park Commission on a regular basis and assist the Rye Town Park Commission in all aspects of the Park management for the 2016 season; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MGroup Consulting LLC shall be paid \$14,400.00 annually for all accounting services.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Commissioners Zuckerman Rosenberg, Pilla, Sack, Salanitro

NOES:

ABSENTIONS: Commissioner Killian

Dated: MARCH 30, 2016

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CONSIDERING ADOPTION OF A FEE AND PERMIT PRICING SCHEDULE FOR THE 2016 SEASON

The proposed fee schedule had been discussed at the monthly Commission meetings on February 16 and March 15. Commissioner Pilla made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rosenberg to bring the fee schedule to the table for further discussion. Discussion ensued wherein the commissioners weighed the impact an increases in nonresident fees might have on the budget and on park attendance.

Comments were invited from the public:

Richard N. Runes of 3 North Kirby Lane, Rye, who identified himself as a former member of the Rye Town Park Commission commented that the commission should be discussing the elasticity of the demand curve in the context of the rates at Playland. Commissioner Salanitro replied that the Commission had consciously placed the park's rates higher than those of Playland. And that by raising the nonresident rates the Commission hoped to accomplish two things, make things more pleasant for the residents and earn enough revenue to break even.

Russel Gold of 7 Hayward Place in Rye, recalled that one of the primary reasons the decision was made to raise the rates was to reduce the number of parking places. He also noted there hasn't been a rate increase since 2012.

On a motion by Commissioner Pilla, seconded by Commissioner Rosenberg, the fee schedule was adopted.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Commissioners Killian, Zuckerman, Rosenberg, Pilla and Salanitro

NOES: Commissioner Sack

ABSENTIONS:

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CONSIDERING ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET

Commissioner Pilla made a motion to bring the budget to the floor of the commission. Discussion ensued regarding various components of the budget whereupon Commissioner Zuckerman invited public comment on the budget.

Richard N. Runes (address above) did not think the commission should go out and spend money on professional fees to hire a consultant that would analyze the RFQ.

Mack Cunningham of 502 Forest Avenue in Rye asked if the position of Park Director had been posted publicly. He also observed that there was no line for contingencies in case the City does not prevail in the pending certiorari lawsuit. He recommended the Commission take a more conservative approach to its revenue projections.

More discussion ensued among the commissioners regarding the budget, the assumptions underlying it, as well as the process of hiring a park director.

Laura Brett of 661 Milton Road in Rye, identified herself as a former Rye City Councilwoman and member of the Rye Town Park Commission. She commented that the process is out of order and suggested that since there is no contingency portion of the budget, the Commission move the additional funds proposed in the budget for the prospective Park Director into a contingency line. She also suggested the Commission place the additional \$10,000 proposed for consulting services be placed in Contingencies, as well.

On a motion from Commissioner Pilla, seconded by Commissioner Salanitro, the proposed budget was amended in the following respect: The Park Director's salary was reduce by \$25,000; consulting fees of \$10,000 was removed; a \$35,000 contingency for unresolved circumstances was added.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Commissioners Killian, Zuckerman, Rosenberg, Pilla and Salanitro

NOES: Commissioner Sack

ABSENTIONS:

On a motion previously made by Commissioner Pilla and seconded by Commissioner Rosenberg, the budget was adopted:

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Commissioners Killian, Pilla, Rosenberg, Salanitro and Zuckerman
NOES: Commissioner Sack
ABSENTIONS:

CONSIDERING THE ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION TO ENGAGE THE CONSULTING
SERVICES OF BFJ PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The proposal was tabled.

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CONSIDERING THE EXTENSION OF A CAPITAL COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE RFQ
SUBMISSIONS.

Commissioner Rosenberg made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Salanitro to bring the issue to the table for discussion. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Zuckerman invited comments from the public.

Howard Vies, of Water's Edge identified himself as the president of the residential community and expressed the view that none of the submissions were acceptable.

Deirdre Curren of Harrison said she did not think the RFQ would solve the capital problems at the park.

Commissioner Pilla recommended that before proceeding with the resolution, the Commission consider pursuing a master planning process for the park and that the Center for Urban Park Management be invited to make a presentation. Discussion ensued. On a motion by Commissioner Pilla and seconded by Commissioner Salanitro the will be held at a subsequent meeting.

Commissioner Zuckerman requested a motion to table discussion of the process by which the RFQ Responses would be studied until the Center for Urban Park Management accepted Commissioner's invitation and makes a presentation. On a motion from Commissioner Pilla, seconded by Commissioner Rosenberg the resolution was withdrawn.

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Bill Lawyer reminded those assembled that there will be a community conversation held Saturday, May 14 at 10:00am till whenever.

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CONSIDERING TO APPOINT THE PARK DIRECTOR

Commissioner Zuckerman recommended that the resolution be tabled pending further discussion by the commission regarding the process to be followed for hiring a Park Director. After some discussion, it was agreed that the job description would be circulated among the commissioners and the position posted as soon as possible.

Commissioner Zuckerman invited comments from the public:

Russ Gold (address above) noted that whatever is decided, the decision to hire a new park director should be a majority vote by the commission.

On a motion to adjourn special meeting made by Commissioner Salanitro, seconded by Commissioner Rosenberg the meeting Adjourned.

Beach Volleyball

Our program is a Co-ed beach volleyball league run on Monday nights for 12 weeks starting in late May. Games start around 6pm and end at 8:30pm. Make-up games are played on Tuesday nights.

The league is set up for 11 nets, with four heats playing every half hour. There are 44 teams competing, in all. 22 teams play in each heat.

Participants come from all over the region. Well over 90% of the them have been playing for at least eight or more years.

The league is a fund raiser for the youth football program in Rye/Port Chester/Rye Brook.

We have been doing it for 15 years and we currently pay you \$20 a member.

We have about 330 participants every year

Rye Town Park - Management Report
From March 9 to April 13-2016 - Draft

Overview - We moved forward on all fronts in getting ready for the spring and summer.

No serious storm damage was done to the park during the time of this report. While overall the temperature was above average in February, we did have a record low temperature (-1) on Feb. 14.

Maintenance - The heavy storm on Feb. 24 knocked over one of our leash law signs as well as some branches. The sign was re-installed the following week.

At the February meeting, the RTPC approved the contract with the Pond Lake Connection Company for maintenance of the park pond water quality.

Parking, Security and Safety -

The Rye Record police blotters reported a number of summons issued to people violating the leash laws at RTP - in the park and on the beach. Other security issues reported included the Rye police getting a car parked in the lot at 2 a.m. removed.

Bill Lawyer prepared a clarified and abbreviated version of the "No Smoking" policy for use in educating the staff and public regarding the reasons for the policy.

Beach Operations - Nothing to report. We've had no significant sand erosion so far.

Finances - We are still waiting for a complete financial report for the park's operations in 2015.

Personnel - Bishop Nowotnik's last day was Friday, March 4th. [DR1] Bill Lawyer made a recommendation to Debbie Reisner regarding adding the word "staff" as well as the logo to all staff shirts going forward.

Programs, Permits and Fees - Due to the lack of a quorum the RTPC was unable to act on the issue of possible changes in fees for 2016.

We received the signed contract and payment for the Angelman Foundation Walk scheduled for Sunday, May 22. We also received the contract and payment for the NAMI walk Saturday, May 21.

Marie Considine, the NAMI walk coordinator has also requested that they be allowed to mount supportive ribbons on some of the Park trees during the month of May. Bill Lawyer told her to send a request to the RTP Commission.

Bill Lawyer started work in contacting bands and setting up the schedule of concerts for the summer.

Park Development

So far we have received contributions or pledges totaling \$1,760 toward the outdoor movie ("Because of Wynn Dixie July 14") and Shakespeare ("12th Night"). We have 3 additional businesses interested in the concerts and movies.

Bill Lawyer met Feb 19 with Peter Green of the Lawnchair Theatre to work out their production.

Bill passed the list of saplings offered at low cost by the NY Power Authority to Bartlett arborist Frazer Pehmueller. We must order a minimum of 5 trees.

The NYPA will match what we order. Frazer recommends getting 3 sugar maples (total of 6) for planting along the west side, and 3 American sycamores (total of 6) for the northeast section of the park. The cost will be \$827 for the 12 trees. We must get the purchase order in by April 15. The trees will be delivered for planting in the fall. Frazer will submit a price quote for planting the 12 trees.

Bill Lawyer attended a free program March 8 on urban public gardens. It was led by Partick Cullina, an award winning horticulturist and landscape designer with over 20 years of experience. His projects include NYC High Line, numerous projects for the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, and the Bethlehem Steel/The Hoover Mason Trestle. The program was sponsored by the Rye Garden Clubs. We hope to get the clubs to provide help with projects at Rye Town Park.

The "Greater Playland Working Group" had a meeting March 4 to update the goals and activities proposed to promote focus on environmental and cultural projects coordinated by Rye Town Park, the Children's Museum, the Rye Historical Society, Save The Sound, and Edith Read Sanctuary.

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

Debbie Reisner and I met with 3 members of the board of Friends of Rye Town Park on Thursday, March 3. They are going to continue to provide financial support for care of the park's gardens, pond, and the bench replacement project. However, they will not be able to provide any volunteer help or recruitment/coordination.

Bill Lawyer is working with park neighbors who are interested in providing these services. We met with resident Jamie Jenson on March 11.

We also discussed the idea of holding another public “community conversation” meeting at the park in April or May.

Update on the RFQ - A second walk-through was conducted for the Fort-Pond-Bay Company on Thursday, March 3. We received written questions from the City of Rye on Friday, March 4. A written response was sent to all parties that have expressed interest on Friday, March 11.

We were approached by Midland School parents about developing community service projects at the park in May. They also approached the F RTP.. Daisy (6-7 yr. old) Scout troop leader Nicole Van Maanen contacted us regarding spring volunteer projects as well.

We will work with people looking to do volunteer work at the park any way we can.

The Friends of Rye Town Park is a 501(c)3, not-for-profit volunteer citizens' group formed in 1991 by residents of Rye Town (City of Rye, Port Chester, Rye Brook, and Rye Neck.) We work cooperatively with but independently from the Rye Town Park Commission, the municipal body that governs, manages and operates the park and beach.

OUR MISSION is to restore the park's landscape and work to preserve its beauty and historic significance for the enjoyment and passive recreation of the community -- a renaissance that began in 1991 after decades of neglect and deferred maintenance.

Our three main functions are to serve as an advocate for the Park, as an ombudsman organization and to enhance the plantings and maintenance of this passive park. We do not set policy or pricing, we receive no monies from the Rye Town Park Commission or any of the municipalities involved in Rye Town Park (City of Rye, Town of Rye, Village of Rye Brook or Village of Port Chester). In fact, we fundraise privately from community members to fund our mission.

Past projects include: the refurbishment of the duck pond, additional maintenance projects not covered by the park's budget, the decorative fence surrounding the beach amongst many others. Currently, the Friends have continued planting and maintaining the gardens in and around the Park and continuing to support the maintenance of the trees we have planted. For Fall 2016, we will be sharing the cost of planting several new trees with the Commission.

The Friends have carefully reviewed the proposals for the operation of Rye Town Park for 2016, both individually and as a body, and fully endorse the proposal of the City of Rye to run the park. Since the park is located within the City of Rye boundaries, the City has a compelling reason to offer to administer the Park. This proposal has our full endorsement.

Council Meeting

Commission Meeting

