

ADOPTED MINUTES, AS AMENDED

MEETING MINUTES: JUNE 21, 2016

A regular monthly meeting of the Rye Town Park Commission was held on Tuesday, June 21, 2016 in the Rye Neck School District's Community Room, 300 Hornidge Road, Mamaroneck, New York, with Commission President Gary J. Zuckerman presiding.

PRESENT: in addition to Commissioner Zuckerman were Commissioners Julie Killian and Dennis Pilla.

ALSO

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

ABSENT: Commissioners Joseph Sack, Benedict Salanitro, and Paul Rosenberg .

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Jamie Jensen 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 at 6:15 PM and asked Commission Secretary Reisner to call the roll.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 17, 2016 monthly meeting could not be adopted because the Commissioners present did not constitute a quorum.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Zuckerman invited members of the public to comment. None did.

5. CONSIDERING SCULPTURE INSTALLATION PROPOSAL

As requested at the May meeting, artist and curator Bob Clyatt of 181 Milton Road in Rye and Executive Director of the Rye Arts Center (RAC) Meg Rodriguez of 2 Stoney Crest in Rye provided more detail regarding their request for an in kind donation of a concrete pad which would be used for the installation of a monumental sculpture. They reported that they had met on site with the Park's directors and Russ Gold of the Rye Town Park Alliance to select an appropriate location. Commissioner Zuckerman said the request could not be fulfilled by the commission municipalities because none of them reported having the requisite resources. He said he would approach a contractor to have the project donated and if that isn't possible, the commission would go out to bid for the project.

6. REGARDING PROPOSED WORK BY THE BARTLET TREE CARE SERVICE

Assistant Park Director - Development Bill Lawyer reported that the tree work that is supported jointly with

the Friends of Rye Town Park and the Commission will total \$13, 408 this year. Further, he reported that the Friends organization had already approved the payment \$6,704. He requested approval by the commission to go ahead with the work. Since this work had already been provided for in the 2016 budget, the commission did not have to approve the work again.

7. REGARDING ENGAGEMENT OF JUDIE EISENBERG, GRANT WRITER

Judie Eisenberg, president of Proposal Pro, of 80 Theodore Friend, Rye, outlined several possible approaches to take in submitting a successful grant application for the 2016 CFA (Consolidated Federal Application) program. Her recommendation was to apply for funds to conduct a feasibility study and a community visioning process. That would enable the commission to achieve its priorities of envisioning how the park's stakeholders want to engage with the park over the long term, as well as more immediately providing the resources required to fix its leaky roofs, beach ramp and bathrooms. She explained that a planning grant would enable the Rye Town Park Commission (RTPC) to conduct an assessment of the physical plant produce shovel ready plans that would put the park administration on sound footing to prioritize and apply for grants in future years.

Commissioner Pilla observed that these are historic buildings and said he saw it as the Commission's obligation to maintain the buildings. He said creating the plans had to be done. He was in favor of pursuing the visioning plan because it entailed a community conversation and will guide the commission in what programs to do. He also saw the social benefits of creating jobs for the local community.

Commissioner Zuckerman reported this initiative also aligns with a Westchester County plan to encourage walking and biking to the waterfront district. He also observed that the Commission had recently applied for a Capstone program run by NYU/ Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. The program provides a team of graduate students who are studying public service to conduct research and planning for the park. Moreover, if the RTPC is selected, the Capstone project would both align with the CFA grant application. Commissioner Zuckerman invited public comment.

Brief Comments by the Public regarding the Grant

Jamie Jensen, of 588 Forest Avenue in Rye asked Ms. Eisenberg why this grant?
Judie Eisenberg explained that this is a standard funding source and applications to the CFA are common. She continued that the key strategy would be to organize the park's grant applications in progressive steps. This grant allows you to gain clear vision of the plans, speak to the public, and be methodical as opposed to jumping right into construction. It also builds your capacity to do larger projects, and to do it in phases. Ms. Eisenberg believed this system would work better for an inter-municipal body such as the RTPC and would work better for the residents of Rye.

Helen Gates of [3 Magnolia Place, Rye, NY 10580](https://www.google.com/maps/place/3+Magnolia+Place,+Rye,+NY+10580) asked what the likelihood was of something like this being approved. Ms. Eisenberg replied that this is a highly competitive grant but our application would be helped because the New York State's Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation has other funded properties near-by. Moreover, that agency had already invested in the park when it provided the grant to replace the administration building roof. The goal is to illustrate how the things we want to do with this park connects to the priorities that matter to the people who will read our grant application.

Diane Horner of 129 Beach Ave. Mamaroneck, asked Ms. Eisenberg if this grant process will any new construction in the park? Will the grant preserve the park or start new construction jobs?

Ms. Eisenberg answered that that the feasibility part is only historic preservation, no new construction. But the visioning part would then be the time to consider something new. The park's stakeholders have an important role to play in that.

Russ Gold of 7 Hayward Place observed he believed it is important *that* everybody get involved *in the process*.

Commissioner Zuckerman closed this portion of the agenda by stating that we have to begin to plan. The First step is to have a plan as to what we want to do. What we want the park to look like and how we want it to function. Rather than approach the work to be done at the park in a patchwork fashion, with no plan. If the commission decides not to go through with the plan, that's a decision for the commission to make at that time.

8. Discussion of Information Technology

President Zuckerman asked Debbie Reisner to explain the problems that had been discovered in the technology infrastructure at Rye Town Park. Ms. Reisner outlined the issues that were reported in her memo sent the previous week. Commission Killian suggested that we start working on this project now, firstly to fix the issues presented now but also to prepare for next season. Commission President Zuckerman agreed and directed park staff take into action immediately.

9. Seaside Johnnies Request to Engage a Disc Jockey for July 4th Celebration

The owners of Seaside Johnnies had submitted a request that, as in preceding years, the restaurant be permitted to engage a disc jockey to entertain patrons on July 4th. Commission President Zuckerman asks for confirmation of John Ambrose doing this in the past. Park Director Terry Fanelli confirmed that the DJ had been permitted previously and reported that neither she nor the Lifeguard Captain had a problem with it. Permission is granted by Commission President Zuckerman for the Disc Jockey at Seaside Johnnies.

10. Beach Ramp Report

President Zuckerman noted that Dolph Rotfeld and Benny Salanitro were working on a new proposal for the beach ramp.

11. Approval of Restaurant RFP

President Zuckerman noted that the RFP was ready to go out. The commissioners made several additions to the draft RFP. As there was no quorum, a vote was not taken to approve the RFP.

12. PARK MANAGEMENT REPORT

The Park Management report was presented by Park Director Terry Fanelli. The following was submitted to the commission in writing.

Rye Town Park - Management Report

Period F r o m : - May 12 To: June 16; Next RTPC Meeting: 6/21/16

Overview –

Other than minor complaints and 1 complaint regarding the music at parties held, the staff has handled the pavilions to be reported and all.

Complaints regarding the music levels at parties are being handled by constant monitoring of the level of music to be cognizant of the surrounding neighbors and people on the beach. Upon arrival, the DJ or Band are spoken to and told about the facility not being a

club and if after 2 warnings to lower music levels, we will be shutting them down. Rye City Ordinance is music is to be shut down at 10PM and this is being adhered to.

Preparations for the upcoming Fourth of July weekend are in place, all schedules set, and supplies needed have been obtained and are in place.

Pavilion rentals continued to be booked, and for the month of July there are very few dates still available.

To date, all departments are on point and all are with the mindset of maintaining and keeping the park a safe, clean and enjoyable place for people to come and enjoy.

Maintenance -

We received the 2016 tree maintenance proposals from Bartlett on 5/14/16. These are divided into 4 parts. The FRTP have agreed to split the \$7,110 cost 50-50 - \$3,555 each for the first two parts. These are lower than last year (see chart).

The Pond-Lake Company got the aerators and waterfall working, but they discovered some problems with the circulator. It was repaired and re-installed 6/16. They carried out biological treatments 6/2 and 6/16.

The park's landscaper has agreed to repair the damage done by snow removal to the flowerbed at the corner of Forest and Dearborn. He said it would be done by 6/17.

In addition to the regular maintenance, the staff has repaired plumbing, carried out painting and structural repairs, painted new barrels blue for recycling cans and bottles, exterminated rodents and wasps, installed speed bumps, and repaired the stonework on the Forest Ave. pedestrian entrances.

Much of the regular maintenance is to be sure that the park is clean and in full working order when it opens at 9 a.m. This includes collecting beach and park litter, raking the beach, and cleaning up in the afternoon when needed.

We have received many positive comments about the conditions of the grounds, trees and planting beds.

Parking, Security and Safety -

On 5-19/16 the maintenance staff installed eight 18 x 24 inch smoke free zone signs at the various entrances to the park and beach. Larry Miano reports that the staff hiring is complete and all the personnel information collected. New uniforms, vests and other safety equipment have been received. He also reports that we need an additional golf cart for safe park/beach management. We had 4 incidents reported - stolen car/controlled substance, dog attacked by another dog, person fainted in SSJ restaurant and an infant was locked in a car.

8 Rangers and senior staff have been certified in CPR/First-aid/AED and Oxygen administration.

We now have a lockout kit for patrons who accidentally lock their keys in the car. We have

used it twice already (pregnant woman/senior citizen).

Beach Operations - The sand was delivered and distributed along the south end of the beach, where most of the gravel accumulates. Only a few minor injuries were reported. Staffing is up to full operational level. For safety, the lifeguards are on duty from 9-6 weekdays and 9 to 7 weekends. All personnel are certified, and they are upgrading their skills. They have painted and improved their buildings.

We got some complaints about seaweed in the water. Water quality is good.

Finances -

Luke Glockenberg reports that despite the late opening of beach season, we're doing well with permits, parking and beach admission. This is largely due to some great weekend weather in between a few rainy days. He also reports that the cashier staff is doing very good work. There were only a few complaints by non-residents about the increased fees.

Personnel - We received the RTP stainless steel water bottles 5/16 -- with plenty of time to get name labels and water jug system set up. We held the staff orientation on Sunday, May 22nd. RTPC President Gary Zuckerman and Chief-of- Staff Debbie Reisner were on hand along with the senior staff. Terry says she is very pleased with the way all the staff is working together to make operations go smoothly. A senior staff meeting was held on 6/8/16.

Programs, Permits and Fees -

All the paperwork has been completed for the 7 concerts, magic show, and outdoor movie. We will be carrying out the work for the Shakespeare production in the weeks ahead. We have already received the \$1,000 sponsorship to cover the cost. Bill Lawyer is preparing and distributing media releases about all the events.

The NAMI and Angelman Foundation walks were held 5/21 and 5/22. All went smoothly and the weather cooperated. The HPTC continued to hold its Monday after school training sessions. Their final session was 6/6/16. At Terry Fanelli's suggestion, we are working with a DJ to provide a Fireworks Night Disco Inferno program at the park on Friday 7/22 from 6 to 9:30 pm, weather permitting.

Park Development -

We had a good turnout for the RTP Community Conversation on 5 /14/16. As a result, we are getting much feed-back from residents regarding park issues, including overflow parking, pavilion event noise, fund-raising and tree care. The following week local residents set up a "members only" Facebook site - "Rye Town Park Alliance" - to share their ideas and information about the park.

Rye Town Park staff set up information and permit sales booth from noon to 3:30 at the Rye Brook 34th birthday party 6/11 at Crawford Park. We got two permits and had a number of conversations with people about the park. Debbie introduced Bill to Jerry Morano, a free-lance communications consultant who lives in Rye Brook. Bill reached out to him to help promote RTP among Rye Brook residents.

Bill Lawyer, along with Debbie Reisner and Gary Zuckerman, met with Helen Gates 5/26 regarding possible capital projects and sources of funds to pay for them. One possible funding was to get a "capstone" grant to help with the RTP management issue.

Bill Lawyer and cashier supervisor Luke Glockenberg worked with Google Business to improve access to information about RTP through Google's search engine. This allows people to leave comments - all of which have been positive so far. It also provides a link to our web site home page and a link to get directions. FYI - It takes 14 minutes to get from RTP to 222 Grace Church St. by bike.

We have five memorial benches waiting to be assembled and installed at Rye Town Park.

The decorative fountain restoration project is moving along. Donor JoAnn Leon has agreed to the park's recommendation for the fountain design and plaque. We approved the plaque design/wording 6/14 and the restoration design details. The total cost will be \$2,205.

Rye artist Bob Clyatt made a presentation to the RTPC at their May meeting regarding a proposed sculpture. They were told to present a detailed request of what was needed, to see if the RTPC could provide in-kind services to cover the setup of the 12' diameter base. That information was prepared and submitted to the RTPC for discussion at the June meeting. We met 6/16 with the sculptor, members of the Rye Arts Center and RTP Alliance to determine the best location for the roughly 12 diameter/high footprint. A site was selected -- by the beach path between the north entrance and the first aid station.

Bill Lawyer and Gary Zuckerman attended a luncheon honoring the Friends of Rye Town Park at Wainwright House 5/19/16. Posters, flyers, and press releases were prepared and distributed, focusing on the many events to be held at RTP starting in June.

RTP got very good Journal News articles with photos about the park's Memorial Day weekend, and upcoming concerts.

Terry Fanelli concluded her report by observing that Port Chester would not be having July 4th fireworks this year and suggesting that in order to make room for patrons to attend the fireworks show at the park that employees park in a restricted parking area for the day. Permission was granted but for July 4th only.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah A. Reisner
Secretary to the Rye Town Park