

ADOPTED MINUTES

RYE TOWN PARK COMMISSION MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES: JULY 19, 2016

A regular monthly meeting of the Rye Town Park Commission was held on Tuesday, July 19, 2016 at 6:00 P.M. at the Rye Neck School Districts Community Room, 300 Hornidge Rd Mamaroneck, New York with Commission President Gary J. Zuckerman presiding. A video and an audio recorder were in use during the proceedings.

PRESENT: Commissioner Zuckerman were Commissioners Julie Killian, Dennis Pilla, Joseph Sack, and Benedict Salanitro.

ALSO

PRESENT: Trustee Jason Klein of the Village of Rye Brook representing Commissioner Rosenberg, Town Attorney Paul Noto, Park Director Terry Fanelli, Assistant Park Director-Development William Lawyer and Commission Secretary Deborah Reisner

ABSENT: Commissioner Paul Rosenberg.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Sack led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL

Commissioner Zuckerman called the meeting to order and asked Deborah Reisner to call the roll.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

On a motion of Commissioner Sack, seconded by Commissioner Pilla, the minutes for the meeting held on May 21, 2016 were unanimously approved as submitted. The minutes from the meeting held on June 21, 2016 could not be adopted because the Commissioners that attended the June Commission meeting did not constitute a quorum.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Russell Gold of 7 Hayward Place in Rye spoke on behalf of the Rye Town Park Alliance. He stated that he was "uncomfortable with the proposed Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) because he feared that it posed negative potential ramifications for the community." He worried about Rye Town Park becoming a regional destination adjunct to Playland. He expressed specific concern about the City of Rye having to issue a bond in order to comply with a matching funds requirement.

Jaime Jenson living in Rye at 588 Forest Avenue expressed similar sentiments to Mr. Gold in regards to the proposed CFA. She believed that there needed to be more questions asked about where the funding was going and urged the Commission to think about this more in the larger context of the park mission. She believed that the Commissioners should not rush into this and instead should continue listening to viewpoints of the community.

5. PARK MANAGERS REPORT

Park Director Terry Fanelli the Park Manager discussed the Park's success over the Fourth of July Weekend. She reported that during the first four days of July revenue was \$89,513 which is up from \$73,000 last year. For the month of June, they were ahead \$24,000 and from April 16th to June 30th they

were ahead by \$143,040. From July 1st to July 15th they made \$201,557 which is up from \$175,895 last year. She reported that \$106,000 was earned from the sale of permits, \$ 10,420 from parking and \$12,000 from beach admissions.

Ms. Fanelli thanked the lifeguard staff for making three water saves in the preceding three weeks. She reported there had been no noise complaints and explained that the maintenance schedule had been rearranged to control the accumulation of overnight garbage so now two maintenance men worked every night.

Commissioner Killian asked if the reason why the park's improved financial performance was due to the increased prices. Ms. Fanelli answered it was safe to assume a correlation between the prices and the increased revenue. Commissioner Pilla asked if parking overcrowding had been a problem so far this season. The park director said it had not.

Commissioner Zuckerman mentioned preliminary results of the 2015 audit report indicated an operating surplus of \$159,000. The following Park Management Report was submitted for inclusion in the minutes:

Report - Period From: - June 17 to July 14; Next RTPC Meeting: 7/19/16

Overview - With the exception of a few incidents (4 jumping the fence, who were caught, and a patron passing out on the beach), the 4th of July weekend was a success.

I would like to thank my senior staff and all employees who worked the long hours for the weekend ensuring the safety and cleanliness of the park. Everyone in every department stepped highly up to the plate working together as a team to make this happen.

FINANCIALS - Beach Income

4th of July Weekend

4 Day Weekend (Fri – Mon) 7/ 1 – 7/ 4, 2016	Total Revenue \$89,513
4 Days (Sun – Wed) 7/ 3 – 7/ 6, 2015	Total Revenue \$73,009
Variance	\$16,504 ahead of 2015

Month to Month

June 2016	Total Revenue \$258, 209
June 2015	Total Revenue \$133,643
Variance	\$124,566 ahead of 2015

YTD

April 16 – June 30, 2016	Total Revenue \$428,982
April 16 – June 30, 2015	Total Revenue \$288,678
Variance	\$140,304 ahead of 2015

UNIT SALES

7/1 - 7/17	2015	2016	Variance
PERMITS	116	106	-10
PARKING	11,329	10,420	-909
BEACH	12,197	12,033	-164
TOTALS	23,256	22,453	-803
TOTAL VARIANCE			-1073

Maintenance - The pond contractor did a chemical treatment on 6/24 and an algae treatment on 7/11 (the latter does not require posting signs). So far the algae has been

kept well under control despite the dry weather. The F RTP landscaping firm did major work on improving all the park plantings beds and the area around the pond. Bartlett completed the first two parts of their tree care work on 7/5.

The maintenance staff carried out their regular tasks - garbage collection, cleaning of public and staff bathrooms, litter collection on the beach and park, removal of dead branches, trimming trees and shrubs, recycling cardboard, watering plants, weeding, and the like.

The staff schedules were re-arranged so that garbage/recycling cleanup can now be performed in the late afternoon/early evening. Thus the beach and park are less littered in the morning.

The staff also carried out a number of repair and upgrading projects, including assembling the memorial benches, repairing path lights, park benches, bathrooms and other facilities, painting the decorative fountain, and painting/putting out extra garbage/recycling cans.

Parking, Security and Safety - A park maintenance worker was bitten by an off-leash dog. Larry Miano reports that he sent copies of police reports to Debbie Reisner. Park patrons had lots of lost keys, phones and the like. A ball playing area by the first aid station was added, with signs. Bill Lawyer reported that the no smoking sign by the Playland entrance has been removed.

Beach News - The weather was very favorable over the period -- the beach was closed for only two days. He reports that so far the beach goers have been very "civil." We had two health-related problems, one of which involved the lifeguard staff making a successful water rescue. The beach staff works with maintenance on caring for beach facilities, and they help clean up litter.

Finances - Sullivan Data Management has been selected to address the information technology and network problems here at the park, with our existing point-of-sale software vendor All-Point remotely running our software. All the staff is working well. One ranger left and we hired an additional parking attendant. The total is now 11. Two new cashiers were added to replace people who left, bringing the total park staff to 80 employees. The park income statistics are listed at the beginning of this report. We are looking to get the full income and expense reports to help in our fiscal management.

Programs, Permits and Fees - We added a disco night event for Friday, July 22nd in the South Pavilion. Several different yoga instructors contacted us regarding offering programs for a fee. Despite some concerns about the weather, the first four concerts were held under dry conditions. The DEC completed its field inventory of nesting shore birds on June 22nd. The Rye Free Reading Room Storytimes program started on July 5, with about 16 people. The second one had over 40 people. We had to postpone the magic and movie night to the rain date of July 21st, due to the threat of thunderstorms. The Alzheimer's Association is looking to hold a "Subzero Heroes Polar Plunge" event next February. We will work with them to develop this fund-raising project.

Park Development -

We got good publicity in the local media regarding our summer events. We send out releases about all events 3-4 weeks in advance of the program dates. The Journal News ran articles about the beach the entire holiday weekend. The Rye Record and Westmore News were particularly helpful.

The Rye Free Reading Room sent out publicity regarding the Storytimes programs at Rye Town Park. Bill Lawyer took photos for the Town newsletter at the first session on July 5th.

Bill had a long discussion with Rye Brook resident Jerry Marano 7/6 about developing a campaign to encourage more Rye Brook residents to use the park. He offered to identify some people who are already doing so, and use them in a public service announcement - type video that could be used on the Rye Brook web site and Facebook.

Work was completed on restoration of the decorative fountain, with a gift from JoAnn Leon. Helen Gates volunteered to work with the Friends of Rye Town Park to get funds from the Westchester Triathlon charity program. This year they will be donating \$500 to FRTP. We are receiving inquiries about people donating funds to get more memorial benches – these are being handled by FRTP.

A number of FRTP, Rye Sustainability Committee and RTP Alliance people are discussing the idea of installing some bat roosting boxes at the park, after reading a New York Times article about parks doing it on Staten Island and Long Island. We are collecting information before moving forward. Bats are very helpful in keeping the insect population controlled.

The bird boxes installed around the pond a few years back have been very helpful in attracting swallows - also insect eaters. Debbie Reisner notified us that Lou Larizza, a local builder, expressed interest in donating the labor and materials to build the base for outdoor sculptures at RTP. Bob Clyatt and sculptor Damien Vera met with Lou 7/14 at the site.

5. RESOLUTION TO ENGAGE A GRANT WRITER

Commission President Zuckerman explained that this resolution had been scheduled to come before the commission at the previous meeting but due to lack of a quorum it could not be approved then.

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

WHEREAS, the Rye Town Park Commission has identified a need for assistance with grant writing and securing funding opportunities for Rye Town Park projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rye Town Park Commission shall retain the services of Judie Eisenberg, President of Proposal PRO to work with the Rye Town Park Commission on the Rye Town Park Bathing Complex and Oakland Beach feasibility study; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall include all of the items attached hereto on the Two Page

Briefing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Proposal PRO shall work for the Rye Town Park Commission from June through December of 2016 at the rate of \$75.00 per hour not to exceed \$10,000.000 during the term of this agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Rye Town Park Commission President, Gary Zuckerman, is hereby authorized to execute any agreement and/or documents necessary to effectuate this Resolution.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Commissioner Zuckerman, Commissioner Salanitro, Commissioner Klein, Commissioner Killian, Commissioner Sack, and Commissioner Pilla

NOES:

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7. RESOLUTION TO APPROVE SUBMISSION OF GRANT APPLICATION

The second item is to approve submission of the grant application. Commissioner Zuckerman talked about how they needed a plan going forward with the park and that this grant would help them plan for the future of the park. He explained that the grant was \$200,000 and if they got the grant they would need to put up \$100,000 which may not even need to be bonded because of the surplus they had this year.

On motion of Commissioner Salanitro, seconded by Commissioner Pilla, the following Resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, numerous studies since 2003 have identified severe structural and system deterioration, code violations and a lack of ADA compliance at Rye Town Park - with a 2011 estimated "cost to cure" of over fourteen million dollars (\$14,000,000.00) and

WHEREAS, the only capital investment in the Park in the past 10 years involved one million two hundred thousand dollars (\$1,200,000.00) in roof repairs in 2006 (partially financed with funds from New York State's Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation), and

WHEREAS, New York State's Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation is now offering matching grants of up to five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) under its Environmental Protection Fund Grants Program for the restoration of parks and historic structures with a deadline of July 29, 2016, and

WHEREAS, the management of Rye Town Park is the responsibility of the Rye Town Park Commission and the Commission would be the applicant for this matching grant, and

WHEREAS, the Rye Town Park Commission is developing a grant application in the amount of approximately \$200,000.00 to (1) engage in a community planning process to identify the needs of the Park, possible uses, and the impact of any capital improvements on the Park and the community and (2) study the conditions, costs and approaches to the preservation of structures in Rye Town Park resulting in a priority list of shovel-ready projects that are consistent with the outcomes of the community planning process;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rye Town Park Commission approves the submission of

a Consolidated Funding Application to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to provide a Master Plan for the future of Rye Town Park.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Commissioner Pilla, Commissioner Zuckerman and Commissioner Salanitro

NOES: Commissioner Killian, Commissioner Sack

ABSENT:

8. RESOLUTION TO ENGAGE SULLIVAN DATA

On motion of Commissioner Killian, seconded by Commissioner Klein, the following Resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, the Rye Town Park Commission has identified several Information Technology (IT) problems at Rye Town Park and said issues were outlined in a memo to the Rye Town Park Commission from Deborah Reisner dated June 16, 2016, and

WHEREAS, the Rye Town Park Commission has solicited proposals to perform IT Services at Rye Town Park, and

WHEREAS, the Rye Town Park Commission has received two proposals for IT Services at Rye Town Park and the lower bidder was Sullivan Data Management, and

WHEREAS, these services shall cost no more than two thousand one hundred sixty dollars (\$2,160.00) for one time documentation and onboarding and one thousand eight hundred twenty-five dollars (\$1,825.00) for ongoing support for the remainder of this season through September, 2016;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rye Town Park Commission selects Sullivan Data to undertake all necessary IT improvements at Rye Town Park and any other necessary IT Support Services for the operation of Rye Town Park until December 31, 2016, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Rye Town Park Commission President Gary Zuckerman is hereby authorized to sign any contract or agreement with Sullivan data necessary to effectuate this Resolution.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Commissioner Killian, Commissioner Klein, Commissioner Sack, and Commissioner Salanitro

NOES:

ABSENT: Commissioner Pilla

9. PRESENTATION AND RESOLUTION TO CONTRACT WITH WESTHAB COMMUNITY WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

On a motion of Commissioner Killian, seconded by Commissioner Klein, the following Resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, Westchester County entered into a program with Westhab that provides local residents, on public assistance, support in job training, child care, transportation and work experience by securing for them temporary work assignments with government agencies, non-profit organizations and municipalities,

and

WHEREAS, the Rye Town Park Commission has identified a need to hire such individuals as recommended by Westhab to perform various functions for the Park; and

WHEREAS, these employees would be paid by Westchester County through Westhab at no cost to the Rye Town Park Commission; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rye Town Park Commission agrees to enter into an agreement which is attached hereto with the County of Westchester choosing to participate in the Community Work Experience Program; and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that Gary Zuckerman, President of the Rye Town Park Commission, is hereby authorized to execute the Agreement attached hereto with the County of Westchester.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Commissioner Zuckerman, Commissioner Sack, Commissioner Salanitro, Commissioner Klein and Commissioner Killian

NOES:

ABSENT: Commissioner Pilla

10. BEACH RAMP REPORT

Commissioner Salanitro recommended that the ramp project be put on hold until the commission is ready to provide the \$150,000 dollars that is estimated for the ramp repair.

11. ADJOURN

There being no further business, on motion of Commissioner Zuckerman, seconded by Commissioner Salanitro and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Reisner,
Secretary to the Commission