

**MINUTES OF TOWN OF DARIEN
WEED BEACH COMMITTEE OF PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 1, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: Lorene Bora, Chair; Diane Conologue, Amy Doering, Werner Domittner, Mary Flynn, Goody Gray, Marc Ioli

STAFF: Pamela Gery, Director, Parks & Recreation

CALL TO ORDER

Lori Bora called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. A quorum was present.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON THE WEED BEACH EXPANSION PROJECT

Ms. Bora opened up the discussion with her concerns about the process of this Committee and needing to narrow down the amount of choices that the public has indicated that they wanted. Ms. Gery addressed Ms. Bora's concerns by reminding the Committee that the choices have already been narrowed down by survey that was done and Weston & Sampson's four alternative designs were the results of this. There was some discussion amongst the members in regards to the actual survey results and which group of responses were indeed the top ten that the alternatives were created by.

Ms. Bora had asked the Committee members, prior to the special meeting, to write each of their visions and mission statements in regards to the park. She explained that she thought it was extremely important to make sure they all had the same visions for the Town, its residents and park facilities. Each member read aloud their interpretation of what they thought was important to the Town's parks & recreation. They all had similar visions and all represented the best for the recreational needs, conservation and preservation of the town both active and passive.

Following this discussion, Ms. Flynn began the conversation about how to come to a consensus with the various plans that Weston & Sampson had submitted. Mr. Domittner quickly responded and said that he would start the discussion and put a stake in the ground by using the Alternative A that had the seasonal pool in the plan as this was indeed the highest request from the 2,100 respondents in the survey. Ms. Conologue questioned the survey and how little the Committee had to do with this. Mr. Domittner disagreed and reminded the Committee that not only did they come up with many of the questions for the survey but they spent weeks on it before it was delivered to the community. Mr. Domittner suggested that the Committee take Alternative A, and

together go through the list of top ten survey results one by one and cross reference whether that amenity was worthy of staying on the design or ultimately whether it needed to be removed from the plan if they felt as a committee that the space was already too congested with the seasonal pool. With each consensus to the plan, the committee agreed to list their concerns and questions that should be attached along with the design that would be recommended to the Parks & Recreation Commission. Mr. Ioli stated that he also agreed that they needed to vote according to the top survey results that they received and go through the process.

There was a long discussion about the process and how they would come to consensus on the plan. The Committee listed the following amenities they agreed that addressed the Community needs for the expansion project at Weed Beach:

Seasonal Pool with splash pad
Pool house
Walking Paths
Boardwalk
Grassy areas
Boathouse for renting kayaks, sailboats, paddleboards

Ms. Gery said that she would contact Weston & Sampson to have them put these requests in a final plan to submit to the Parks & Recreation Department.

ADJOURNMENT.

**** MS. BORA MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
**** MS. DOERING SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Pamela Gery
Darien Parks & Recreation