

# DRAFT

**TOWN OF DARIEN  
WEED BEACH COMMITTEE OF PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
March 8, 2016**

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

STAFF: Pamela Gery, Director, Parks & Recreation  
Other: Adele Conniff, RTM Parks & Recreation

## CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Bora called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and stated that the members as listed above were in attendance and a quorum was present.

### Approval of Minutes – February 9, 2016 meeting

Corrections were noted as follows: Diane Conologue wanted the following added:

Page 4: Under Public Comments: Adele Conniff, RTM P&R Commission Chairman stated that the Committee viewed the plans and only two out of ten were in favor of a pool. Also only one of two that supported a seasonal pool at the beach only supported it if no other locations were available. Concerns listed by the RTM P&R Committee about a seasonal pool were: flooding, elevations, cleanliness, operations, security. Members favored open space.

- \*\* **MS. BORA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 9, 2016 AS AMENDED WITH ADDITIONS NOTED.**
- \*\* **MR. IOLI SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- \*\* **MOTION PASSED WITH SEVEN VOTES IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED**

### Approval of Minutes – March 1, 2016 Special Meeting

Corrections were noted as follows:

Page 1: Paragraph 2: Changed this sentence to the following: Each member read aloud their interpretation of what they thought was important to the Town parks & recreation. Each member read aloud their interpretation of what they thought was important to ~~the town park & recreation~~ *facilities.*

Page 1: Paragraph 3: *Ms. Conologue wanted to add "I questioned why we needed a subcommittee if its job is only to take a survey. The P&R Commission could have done the survey."*

- \*\* **MS. BORA MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 1, 2016 AS AMENDED WITH CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS NOTED.**
- \*\* **MS. GRAY SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- \*\* **MOTION PASSED WITH SIX VOTES IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED AND ONE ABSTENTION (CONETTA).**

**WESTON & SAMPSON PRESENT FINAL AGREED UPON WEED BEACH  
EXPANSION DESIGN**

Dan Biggs from Weston & Sampson did a presentation on the final design that the Committee had agreed upon March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. The design showed the seasonal pool, splashpad, walking trails, sailing/kayaking rental center, open space with picnic tables and boardwalk that connected to the paths. The Committee asked a few questions in regards to pool size, elevations, fencing around pool. Mr. Biggs also pointed out that the parking lot size, that had been a big concern last week, was decreased by a considerable amount due to removing the amphitheater and the covered pavilion. Members were very pleased with the layout of the plan and pleasantly surprised how well everything fit in the scope of the park. Ms. Bora stated that she thought it would be an attribute to the plan to fix up the current picnic area and do something about the terrible mosquito issue that ultimately is in the area of the improved walking path that is on this plan. The Committee agreed and spent a good amount of time adding to the list of their plan recommendations. They agreed on adding the following additions:

- A. “to repair and fix the culvert” along the contiguous formal but natural Walking Path looping the park.
- B. Landscaping and restoring the current picnic area
- C. Replace shade trees along the beachfront

The Committee then moved onto the third item on the agenda: “Approval of final wording of recommendation to the P&R Commission”. Ms. Conologue then voiced her personal disapproval of the plan. A long discussion was held. Ms. Bora, Mr. Domittner and Ms. Flynn talked about the overall commitment that this Committee has to the public and the amount of time teasing out needs and desires of the residents. Dan Biggs also reminded the Committee of the incredible response to our survey (in large cities he has worked with he has not seen these types of numbers with a survey) and that it spoke volumes about what the residents are looking for. Ms. Conologue went on to say that the Committee chose other things that people wanted in the plan but that she doesn’t think a pool is a good idea. Ms. Gery reminded Ms. Conologue that while on this Committee, personal opinions need to be put aside but when this Committee is over she will have ample opportunities to express her disapproval of a seasonal pool as well as anyone else that sits on this Committee and doesn’t personally see the fit.

The Committee noted that while Ms. Doering was not in attendance, she did approve last week when a consensus was for the seasonal pool and therefore they would accept her vote as they all agreed last week to move this particular plan forward to the P&R Commission.

**\*\* MS. BORA MOVED TO APPROVE THE PARK PLAN AS PRESENTED  
\*\* MR. IOLI SECONDED THE MOTION  
\*\* MOTION NULL WITH 4 VOTES OPPOSED (MR. CONETTA, MR. IOLI, MS.  
GRAY, MS. CONOLOGUE) AND 3 VOTES IN FAVOR (MR. DOMITTNER, MS.  
BORA AND MS. FLYNN)**

Adjournment

**\*\* MS. BORA MOVED TO ADJOURN  
\*\* MR. IOLI SECONDED THE MOTION.  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pamela Gery, Director  
Darien Parks & Recreation Department