

## Minutes from the Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

October 11, 2023

The virtual RTM Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting was held jointly with the RTM Finance and Budget Committee Meeting and was called to order at 8:00pm. Twelve of fifteen members were in attendance: Sarah Baldwin; Adele Conniff; Diane Conologue; Alicia Johnson; Kim Kiner; Alyssa Mahoney; Susan Marks; Sue-Ellen Mitchell; Cheryl Russell; Sandy Savage; Shannon Silsby and Bill Van Loan. Patty Bumgardner; Andy Millar and Tony Larino were absent.

The joint meeting began with Jack Davis (F&B) and Frank Kemp (TGS&A) reporting on the RTM Committee descriptions Appendix B Draft Revisions. He noted that certain procedures were not authorized and that this is a living document that can change with feedback from Rules, Public Works, P&R, F&B, PHS, PZ and Education.

Acting moderator on page 2 refers to the moderator selection process and that there is a succession list.

Also mentioned is that Standing Chairs will have reasonable access to Dept. Chairs.

RTM Rules Committee and all committees shall comply with FOYA and Roberts Rules. Rules Committee may add or combine committees.

Liason with P&R Commission and be responsible for reporting, following and monitoring on all P&R matters.

Question about RTM dormant in November and December. RTM still working in November and December with existing committees still intact until new committees formed.

Moderator may attend any executive sessions of any standing committee.

One member worries it's not a democratic process.

Rules committee assigns committees.

Analysis of a committee cleaned up reserve accounts.

TGSA will probably have one more revision on this document.

No such thing as "Draft Minutes", only minutes that can be "corrected" but no "Draft Minutes".

Minutes should be sent to Town Clerk and Moderator.

Document defines what RTM and Committees can and can not do. Codifying how we are running our business.

Motion to adjourn F&B portion of the meeting.

Moving forward with the P&R portion of the meeting there was a motion to approve the minutes from September 13, 2023 by Susan Marks. Cheryl Russell as to change the minutes on the second page second to last paragraph. The corrected paragraph should read "In May, a P&R Committee member asked that signage to Parks and Recreation Commission for "No Dogs, No Smoking and No Idling" to be installed at PTB, however no signage was installed at PTB this year". The revised minutes were unanimously approved.

Working Group updates: Playground Committee approved final round of Playground Vendors for Cherry Lawn.

Ribbon cutting for McGuane Park Playground TBD.

Great Island Advisory Committee meeting took place on 9/20/23 and will meet again before the P&R Commission meeting. Remediation of arsenic and regulations on eagles nest are a few of the topics to discuss. Plans for the access road are being worked on; must be 22 ft. wide and a 5 ft. sidewalk is also being installed.; they are also installing 200 parking spots scattered throughout the site. There is still a transformer that must be removed (\$25,000-\$30,000) and the removal of underground oil tanks. They are hoping to open Great Island to the public by July 1, 2024.

One member reported that there had been a concern with flooding on Heights Road being routed to Baker Field Park but was assured that water from Heights Road would be contained in drains currently being installed.

#### Chairman's Report

Weed Beach meadow and trail project is being discussed at P&Z. There had been a concern regarding flooding impacting Nearwater Lane. Paddle tennis court still waiting for approval.

Cherry Lawn. Maintenance has painted over the smiley face on the pickle ball courts. The aerator was installed in the pond.

McGuane Park. Little league bid opener is 10/12. Patio and crumbling wall are still in process of restoration.

PTB \$50,000 improvement project; Commission will be discussing scope of improvements.

#### Capital Plan Update

There were two suggestions from our committee to P&R Commission; replace the backstop at Houlihan Field and commission a traffic study at Cherry Lawn park.

Repaving of the Nature Center driveway \$240,000 estimate. ( Exploration as to whether this is a Nature Center expense or a P&R expense)

Weed Beach. Tennis backboard needs repainting and replace floor.

May add pickle ball courts. Chris Taylor is in charge of pickle ball expansion.

Darien Parks tour is on 11/11/23.

Contract for Public Works and P&R employees has to be voted on by BOS then voted on 11/13/23 by RTM.

Great reviews on Roctoberfest.

Motion to adjourn by Cheryl Russell and seconded by Kim Kiner.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:44pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sue-Ellen Mitchell