

TOWN OF ESSEX
Park and Recreation Commission

29 West Avenue • Essex, Connecticut 06426
Telephone (860) 767-4340 x110 • FAX (860) 767-8509

Regular Members

Robert Russo, Chairman
John Bauman
Thomas Clerkin
Anthony Mosa
James Rawn
Douglas Senn
Virginia Willetts
Edward Burleson, Alternate
Peter Sarner, Alternate

Unapproved

MINUTES Wednesday, October 4, 2016
Regular Meeting

Call to Order and Attendance

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Essex Park & Recreation Commission was conducted on Tuesday, October 4, 2016 in Conference Room B, of the Essex Town Hall.

Attending Members:

Robert Russo
Virginia Willetts
Peter Sarner seated for T. Clerkin

Absent Members:

Edward Burleson
Anthony Mosa
Thomas Clerkin
Douglas Senn
Jim Rawn

Staff:

Mary Ellen Barnes, Park & Recreation Director
Stella Beaudoin, Recording Clerk

R. Russo called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Approval of September 6, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION made by P. Sarner to approve the September 6, 2016 meeting Minutes as presented.

SECONDED: G Willetts; **Voting In Favor:** R. Russo, V. Willetts, P. Sarner; **Opposed:** None;

Abstaining: None; **Approved:** 3/0/0.

Public Comment

There were no members of the public present.

Financial Reports

M. Barnes reported on the General Fund noting that the largest expenditure was the water bill which was excessive due to the drought we experienced this summer. M. Barnes indicated that the cost for water should go down moving forward through spring 2017.

R. Russo suggested that the allowance for water should be increased based on the drought that the state has experienced over the past few years.

M. Barnes reported on an expenditure of \$3,470 for the purchase of three picnic tables, and an expenditure of \$3,250 for remediation of the brick path at Grove Street Park.

M. Barnes reported on the Program Revenue Fund with a net balance of \$54,176.58, with approximately \$10,000 received in revenue since the beginning of the year. M. Barnes stated that these numbers do not include August and September 2016 revenue. This Fund is \$6,000 over the intake from 2015.

R Russo questioned what the anticipated summer camp expenses and costs would be.

M. Barnes stated every program offered over the summer was at capacity, and she anticipates that the summer camp intake and output will, all totaled, come close to an even break. M. Barnes stated that every other program offered over the summer was at capacity for participants.

There was a brief discussion on the Park and Recreation Commission meeting attendance. R Russo stated that he will contact Park and Rec Commission members and inquire what their level of commitment to the Commission is and if they wish to be reappointed. R. Russo commended P. Sarner and V. Willetts on their contributions to the Commission and their steady attendance at Commission meetings.

Director's Report / Parks & Program

Park Events

- Saturdays, until 10/15 – Ivoryton Farmers Market – Ivoryton Village Green-10am-1pm
- Saturday, October 22 – Ivoryton Library Road Race & Pumpkin Festival – Ivoryton Village Green 7am-9pm

M. Barnes reported that she will assist the Board of Trade with a seasonal display in the Main Street Park.

Fall Programs

Running Rams - this program is full.

Archery - this program is full.

Tennis - this program is full.

Jr. Warriors Basketball – this program is full.

Cooking with Kids – this program is full.

Floor Hockey

Outdoor Exploration * New Fall Program

Park Updates

- Main Street Park

M. Barnes reported that the Board of Selectmen has approved the appropriation for repairs to the sea wall. It will now go the Board of Finance and then to a Town Meeting which is slated for November.

M. Barnes reported that the Essex Garden Club will conduct a fall cleanup in the Main Street Park. M. Barnes stated that she met with the Essex Garden Club to discuss the treatment of Japanese Knotweed. In the area adjacent to the water's edge, the debris will be removed and the Japanese Knotweed will be clear cut. Landscaping material and mulch will be placed over the area so as to smother the weed, for one full growing season. Hortis Landscaping recommended spot application of a pesticide as the best method to insure long term success in the eradication of the Knotweed. M. Barnes is awaiting further updates from the Essex Garden Club and she will gather more information of options.

M. Barnes reported that the new bench donated by Clara & Alan Miller and was installed in the Main Street Park.

- Grove Street Park and Tennis Courts

M. Barnes reported the Tennis Courts and the park were very well used this summer and the areas under the equipment have been kept well mulched.

M. Barnes reported that the three lights out in the court have been repaired

- Dickinson Park

No Updates.

- Sunset Pond

No Updates.

- Ivoryton Green

No Updates.

- Comstock Park

M Barnes submitted request for funding from the P&R Capital Funds to the Board of Selectman and it was approved. This item will be placed on the Board of Finance Agenda for consideration at their next meeting and if approved, it will move onto the Town Meeting for final approval

- Clark's Pond

No Updates.

- Viney Hill Brook Park

A tree fell on the fence at the small dog park. Atlas has repaired the fence has at a cost for the repair of \$1,200.

- Hubbard Park

No Updates related to the Main Street Investment Fund Opportunity to upgrade some park amenities at Hubbard. Also included in the grant will be street scape, landscaping, sidewalks, fencing and signage along North Main and Grove Street, which will connect this facility to Hubbard Park. M. Barnes had hoped to have a decision at this point related to this grant which will provide funding in excess of \$400,000.

New Business

- **Pumpkin Festival Overview**

M. Barnes stated that she is not sure of the volunteer count as the Pumpkin Festival falls on the same day as the Valley Regional High School Homecoming. M. Barnes stated that she will recruit as many volunteers as she can rally.

R. Russo asked Commissioners to reach out to various groups to volunteer their time to carve pumpkins.

M. Barnes reported that popcorn will be available at the Ivoryton Inn. The Blue Hound and the Ivoryton Tavern will be open for business. Brickside will be offering pizza slices. There will be horse rides, bands, and professional face painting offered. M. Barnes reported that the Ivoryton Alliance is donating \$100 toward the purchase of pumpkins and a private citizen is donating \$150 toward purchase of pumpkins.

Public Comment

There was no Public comment.

General Discussion/Commission Overview

M. Barnes reminded members that some of their terms are set to expire on December 1, 2016.

M. Barnes will prepare the 2017 calendar of meetings which will be reviewed and voted on at the November 1, 2016 regularly scheduled Park and Rec Commission meeting.

Adjournment

MOTION made by G. Willetts to adjourn at 7:49p.m. to the next regularly scheduled Park and Recreation Regular Meeting to be held on Tuesday, November 1, 2016 at the Essex Town Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room B, 29 West Avenue at 7:00 p.m.; **SECONDED:** P. Sarnier **Voting In Favor:** R. Russo, D. Senn, P. Sarnier; **Opposed:** None; **Abstaining:** None; **Approved:** 3/0/0.

Respectfully submitted,

Stella C. Beaudoin
Recording Secretary