

Ocean Pines Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee

January 9, 2020 7 pm Meeting Minutes -Revised

OPA Community Center, Meeting Room

Attendance: OPA Board Liaison, Larry Perrone; Former Committee Chair, Tim McMullen; John Bussard; Mary Corrdry; Tres Denk; Laura Scharle; Kathy Gottesman; Patti Stevens; Jean Higgins; Steve Cohen

1. Welcome and Background - Larry Perrone – Liaison to the OP Board of Directors
  - a. Resolution C-13 describes the purpose of the Committee as advising the BoD on matters pertaining to parks and recreation and promotes their use.
  - b. Committee members applications are reviewed by BoD who then make appointments. Meeting minutes to be provided to Michelle Bennett for BoD consideration. Requests for information or assistance from staff should go through Larry, not directly from committee.
  - c. The Association is now in good fiscal health and the BoD has established a capital reserve fund which may not exceed \$1million with fund expenditures of up to \$500K each year.
  
2. Review of major accomplishments 2014-2019 - Tim McMullen - Former Committee Chair. (Tim is now an employee of OP Racquet Sports so he cannot serve on the committee but will attend and provide input.)
  - a. R&P Committee made significant progress securing support to introduce and maintain a variety of recreational programs and facilities for children, youth, and adults. Examples: Bike Trail in Bainbridge Park, Pickleball and Platform Tennis; New Yacht Club Firepit; Replaced playgrounds at Manklin Meadows and Whitehorse Park; Bathrooms at Whitehorse Park, new Picnic tables. It was noted that 1/3 of the children attending area public schools reside in Ocean Pines.
  - b. Committee advised on processes and tools to track participation and utilization and also reviewed project proposals to inform BoD and other committees.
  
3. Proposed Projects - Larry Perrone
  - a. Proposed projects and cost estimates have been presented to Budget & Finance Committee for consideration. The committee reviewed the list in the agenda.
  - b. Pending requests: Safety fence at Manklin Meadows playground; Replace missing directional signs on Robin Hood Trail, Paving/lighting for trails around South Pond to improve access and safety for those who walk/bike in Southgate area, Improvements to the baseball field and upgrades to playgrounds at Robin Hood and Bainbridge parks; Moving Bocce from Whitehorse Park to Racquet Center. Committee comments: Kathy Gottesman, a regular BOCCE player, suggested that consideration be given to providing

shade in the new location. Mary Corddry pointed out that south side residents have no water access since the removal of the crab pier, are there other options?

- c. Proposals for new programs or activities must include a business case and justification regarding need, impact and community benefit. Committee suggested exploring partnership opportunities. Examples: Kiwanis may fund accessible playgrounds; Eagle Scout projects may help with trail work, Consider what recreational resources are being planned by the YMCA, Worcester County, & Berlin.
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4. Longer term projects for consideration—
    - a. Multi-purpose Gym that could be used by the 12,000+ residents for a variety of sports and recreation. OP residents have expertise to evaluate and develop strategies to achieve this goals.
    - b. Improve trail connections for pedestrian and biking.(collaborate with ESIMBA).
    - c. Modifying or adding facilities/ programs for those with physical/intellectual disabilities.
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5. Committee Positions and Meeting Date.
    - a. Steve Cohen volunteered to serve as Committee Chair; Jean Higgins -Secretary.
    - b. Meetings to be on second Monday of each month. no meetings in July/August.
    - c. February topics: Budget review - Larry Perrone; Review data on R&P, and survey feedback
    - d. Committee members should submit agenda items to Chair a few days prior to next meeting. Agenda will be developed and sent out ahead of time.