

Madison Beach and Recreation Commission
Monthly Meeting
July 2, 2019

In attendance: Rob Card, Mary Pat Nardino, Pam Greene, Shane Kokoruda, Vince Dussich, Scot Erskine (Director), Linda LaSance (Assistant Director), Carrie Gazda (Recreation Supervisor), Bill Piggott (Salt Meadow Park), Bruce Wilson (BOS Liaison), Tom Banisch (First Selectman)

Guests/members of the public in attendance: Dick Passero (287 Legend Hill), Catherine Flynn (4 Conestoga Drive), Kathryn Hunter (31 Scotland Avenue), Thomas Dougherty (122 Concord Drive), Joe Glaser (6 Cambridge Drive), Jennifer Ryan (102 Woodsvale Road), Paul Kessinger (285 Legend Hill Road), William Carroll (26 Scotland Avenue), Carolyn Noller (45 Wilshire Road)

Absent: Joe Oslander, Ted Rahmann, Virginia Raff

Meeting called to order by Chair Rob Card at 7:00 p.m.

- I. Approval of the Minutes dated June 4, 2019
Motion to approve as submitted by Nardino, seconded by Dussich leading to discussion.

Amendments to the June minutes from Rob Card:

- i. Under Programming: Regarding the grant from the Erwin Bauer Trust, Carrie and Scot explained that the grant distribution has been driven towards classroom programming versus park programming, and without the full grant funding, this would impact one specific paid program staff position. A solution was to increase the program participation registration fee.
- ii. Under Old Business: Regarding the new beach parking system, an update was requested of Scot by Rob Card to provide a revenue implication based on delay of implementing the online system.

Motion to approve the minutes as amended by Greene, seconded by Kokoruda; the minutes were approved unanimously as amended.

- II. Public Comments: Members of the public were present to speak to issues with the Madison beach parking system and the proposed Community Center at Academy School. Rob Card granted requests from members of the public to save their comments until after those agenda items were discussed during the meeting. Some members of the public gave their comments at this time.
- III. Chairman's Report:
 - i. Beach Parking System: Status of the new beach parking system is fluid with an update included in the meeting agenda. Rob has been in communication with Scot Erskine, Tom Banisch, Al Goldberg, and Scott

- Murphy about issues with the beach pass system and has been briefed on Tom's work with Scot to reopen the "Nanny Pass."
- ii. Lifeguards: Rob has heard concerns from BOS member Scott Murphy about the lack of lifeguards at Town beaches and explained that we were not receiving enough applications from qualified candidates.
 - iii. Academy School Community Center: Rob spoke with BOS member Al Goldberg regarding the Commission's position on the proposed Academy Community Center and this was placed on the meeting agenda.
 - iv. Objectives of constant improvement, creating a positive experience/value for tax dollar and project management has yet to get legs from us as a commission. Citizen survey is the first step and as a commission we should act on the proposed survey with addendums that meet the objectives of listening and understanding to the community.

IV. Section Reports:

- A. Greenway Trail: Ginny Raff submitted report via email
 - i. The trail is undergoing routine maintenance to keep ahead of the rain washouts.
 - ii. The Greenway Trail Committee is beginning work on the surveys for the CT Trail Census.
- B. Salt Meadow Park Report: Bill Piggott reporting
 - i. The June 9th music festival was a great success and the Committee hopes to plan another event next year, possibly on a Saturday instead of Sunday.
 - ii. Scot Erskine was commended for the excellent condition of the park for the festival.
 - iii. Carrie Gazda was commended for her work scheduling music groups for the festival.
- C. Bauer Park Report: No report in Ted Rahmann's absence
- D. Rockland Preserve: Scot Erskine reporting for Joe Oslander
 - i. Working on a donation board.
 - ii. Work is being done on new mapping of the park to be available on downloadable SQR and in print.
- E. Facilities and Grounds: Scot Erskine reporting
 - i. Focus is on maintaining sports/ball fields.
 - ii. Pads have been completed for batting cages.
 - iii. Beaches have been prepared for the upcoming July 4th weekend and fireworks display to accommodate anticipated crowds in attendance.
 - iv. Update on utility building for Beach & Rec at the Surf Club:
 1. Survey work is being done.
 2. Septic system is being designed.
 3. Location was changed to the north side of the maintenance garage.
 4. Target date for completion is in the fall.

F. Programs: Linda LaSance reporting

- i. The Beach & Rec Department will be accepting donated toys in the month of July as part of the toy drive being conducted by the Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association in partnership with Christmas Wish CT to collect donations of new, unwrapped toys to be distributed to Connecticut families in need this holiday season. Anyone can donate by bringing a new unwrapped toy to the Beach & Recreation Dept. Office at 8 Campus Drive or the Town Campus Gym.
- ii. Summer programs and camps are just starting up. Day camp is limited to 45-47 children because of space limitations at the Surf Club.
- iii. When asked about numbers from one year to the next and if there was enough interest to expand the camp, Scot Erskine said that the Department could do a comparative report at the end of the summer and present it in an October update.

G. Personnel: Scot Erskine reporting

- i. The Department is fully staffed for the summer.

V. Old Business:

1. Citizen Survey Update: Shane Kokoruda communicated that he was not able to work on the final draft version of the Citizen Survey to present to the Commission at the July meeting. Rob Card suggested a target launch date in September. Shane and Vince committed to having a completed draft of the survey for review and vote at the next B&R Commission meeting in August.
2. Parking System Update: Scot Erskine reporting
 - a. Scot Erskine provided a report in the form of a detailed timeline covering required actions, target dates, completion dates, parties responsible/accountable, and notes on the progression of the implementation. Problems and delays were clearly documented.
 - b. Members of the Commission and members of the public were allowed to ask questions and make comments. Issues brought forward include:
 - i. Technological problems and confusing communications/instructions in the user experience.
 - ii. Concerns about system security.
 - iii. Lack of testing the system before going live with the public.
 - iv. Problems of fairness and having enough parking spaces for residents if the hourly parking system makes it so easy and inexpensive for non-residents to use Madison beach facilities.
 - v. Questions of how the Town will deal with tickets and the appeals process.
 - vi. Concerns about meeting targets for passes sold and revenues received because of delays and problems in implementation.
 - vii. Reports of cars dropping off groups of children under age 12 without parking the vehicle and providing adult supervision.

- c. First Selectman Tom Banisch requested that the Commission consider extending hours of parking enforcement.
- d. Scot and the First Selectman have reinstated the “Nanny Pass” system along with a special pass for “Senior Non-Driver Caretakers.”
- e. The system will be evaluated at the end of the beach season to determine if/how it will be continued in the future.

VI. New Business:

- 1. Lifeguard recruitment discussion: Pam Greene reported on her conversation with the Waterfront Director of the Madison Beach Club about their recruitment process to fully staff lifeguard positions for the summer. Greene suggested that Madison Beach & Rec might be able to work cooperatively with other organizations and neighboring towns in future years so that we could have enough qualified applicants to fill lifeguard positions at Madison Town beaches.
- 2. B&R Position on Academy as a Community Center:
 - a. Members of the Commission felt that they did not have enough information to take a position on this issue at this time.
 - b. It was learned that the CIP application for this project will be prepared and put forward through the Beach & Recreation Department.
 - c. Members from the Academy School Community Center Design Committee were present and spoke briefly on the work that has gone into the project. It was agreed that the Beach & Rec Commission needs an update from their Committee, and needs to consider what an expanded Beach & Recreation Department would look like if the department were to move and manage the Community Center.
 - d. A progress report will be presented by the Academy School Community Center Design Committee at the Board of Selectmen meeting being held on July 22 and will be an opportunity to get more information.

VII. Adjournment: Kokoruda made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dussich. The meeting ended at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Greene, Secretary