



TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
Parks & Recreation Commission

Susan Esty, Chairman
Jim Henderson, Vice Chair
Star Rueckert, Secretary
Nancy Gatta
Jane Wisialowski
Robert Lemire
Beth Soden

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**OLD SAYBROOK PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

Wednesday, March 13, 2024; 6:30 PM

This was a hybrid meeting

MINUTES

- 1. Call Meeting to Order** – Chairman Susan Esty called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Present: Director Ray Allen; Asst. Director Jonathan Paradis; Chairman Susan Esty; Secretary, Star Rueckert; Nancy Gatta; Jane Wisialowski; Rob Lemire; Beth Soden; Gerri Lewis, Clerk

Absent: Vice Chair, Jim Henderson

- 2. Approval of February 14th Meeting Minutes**

A Motion to approve of the February 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes was made by Ms. Rueckert and seconded by Ms. Gatta. Motion passed unanimously.

- 3. Recognition of Guests** – None

- 4. Correspondence** – None

- 5. Review of Bills** – The commission reviewed the OSPR Monthly bills for March as presented by Director Allen for \$8,361.51.

- 6. Public Comment** None

- 7. New Business**

- A. Harvey's Beach Vendor Application Review.**

Director Allen noted that the only application was Shore She Shed. She has been the vendor at Harvey's Beach. He provided the commission with Ms. Morgan's vendor application, ServSafe food certification and her EIN. He also provided a sample menu. After a short discussion, the following motion was made:

Ms. Rueckert made a motion to accept the application from Kimberly Morgan of Shore She Shed, LLC, seconded by Mr. Lemire and was so VOTED unanimously. Director Allen will get a contract out to Ms. Morgan.

- B. Any Other Business regarding Programs, Facilities, or Personnel**

Assistant Director Jonathan Paradis noted the following:

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- Spring Programs and Camps are on line now;
- Easter Egg hunt; sponsored by The Lions Club;
- Good Friday – Rock Hunt;
- 4/27 Special Event: Dobratz Fishing Derby;
- Registration open T-ball; starts 5/4;
- 16 Concerts; 13 sponsors
- 2 movies; need sponsors

8. New Business

A. All Parks Review

Director Allen noted the following:

- Very busy time of year; Baseball fields are getting into shape;
- Water is turned; irrigation turned on;
- Thanked Director of Public Works Bill Claffey, for his corroboration;

B. Strategic Plan of Parks Discussion

- Update: Geoff Jacobsen will be working on the Engineering phase for Clark Community Park;

C. Preserve Update

- Ad Hoc Committee working hard on a document to recommend for hunting & trapping on this unique property;
- Eversource has right of way

Mr. Lemire inquired as to whom the contract was awarded for Main Street Park. Director Allen will get that information.

9. Reports

A. Chairman's Report

Chairman Esty reported that she attended the Town Meeting on the budget and referendum. She also attended the ARPA meeting. She noted there is \$1.2M dollars available in ARPA funds. A discussion of the possible ARPA allocations at its last meeting were the following:

- \$500K dedicated to Affordable Housing Fund;
- \$250K dedicated to Mariner's Way Redevelopment;
- \$150K dedicated to Outdoor Recreation;
- \$100K dedicated to the sea wall at Saybrook Point which is crumbling;

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- \$100K Acton Library reconfiguration of space;
- \$100K dedicated to a Heritage Fund.

The commission discussed possible ARPA projects to consider. There were four (4) projects that were most important to consider at this time as follows:

- Clark Community Park
- Kavanaugh Park: Fencing for baseball field and bathroom rebuild
- New fencing for MacMurray Field; and
- New turf/sod installation at Maple Avenue Field

Ms. Esty noted that the commission should think about suggestions for projects at their next meeting. The commission had questions about Mariner's Way. Ms. Esty brought the commission up to speed on this project.

B. Director's Report

- Director Allen apprised the commission that the Program Assistant gave her notice.
- Rick Pine, Office Manager broke his foot
- He presented the commission with possible ARPA projects to consider; Ms. Esty discussed these in her report
- Beach passes are in; will go on sale April 8, 2024

C. Liaison Reports - None

MOTION to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. made by Ms. Gatta, seconded by Ms. Rueckert and was so VOTED unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerri Lewis, Clerk
Parks and Recreation Commission

NEXT MEETING APRIL 10, 2024