

# PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

## MINUTES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015 @ 7:00 PM

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Holly Eaves	Commissioner	Present
Timothy Quillen	Chairman	Absent
Cheryl Dowdell	Vice Chair	Present
Julia Beasley	Commissioner	Present
Ryan Campbell	Commissioner	Present
Sonita K. Cummings	Commissioner	Present
David Currier	Commissioner	Absent
Keith D. DeMerchant	Commissioner	Present
Donna M. Deyorio	Commissioner	Present
Jodi Frank	Commissioner	Present
Richard E. Horstmann	Commissioner	Present
Thomas L. Nowell	Commissioner	Absent
Edward Vazquez	Commissioner	Present

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

b. March 24, 2015 Parks and Recreation DRAFT Minutes

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>TABLED [UNANIMOUS]</b>	<b>Next: 5/26/2015 7:00 PM</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Edward Vazquez, Commissioner	
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Donna M. Deyorio, Commissioner	
<b>AYES:</b>	Eaves, Dowdell, Beasley, Campbell, Cummings, DeMerchant, Deyorio, Frank, Horstmann, Vazquez	
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Quillen, Currier, Nowell	

### 3. COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC

Marty Lader, mentioned that renters trample the dunes in the summer near Blue Shutters because it is the easiest route to get from the rental property to the beach. He mentioned there are no signs asking them to keep off the dunes and no fence preventing them from walking through them. He asked if there was a way to proactively alert people of the dunes as people may not know that they can't walk through them.

Eileen Lader, asked if the way cars are parked at the beach could be addressed. She mentioned that patrons were not being parked as closely as they had been in the past and some were being told there were no spaces available when there were spaces.

### 4. TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

There was no Town Council Liaison Report.

### 5. NEW BUSINESS

#### a. Smoking at Town Beaches

JoAnn Stolle pointed out her comments minutes from the previous meeting. She mentioned that she spoke on behalf of herself, her husband and residents regarding the issue of smoking on Town beaches. She mentioned that the smoking band was really not being enforced.

Vicky Hilton, Acting Parks and Recreation Director described the ordinance and how it is being handled. She mentioned that there is a no smoking ordinance at the beaches and there is a penalty. She mentioned at staff training the smoking ordinance is discussed, also as people enter the beaches they are told where they can smoke, that the

tickets and beach stickers say no smoking and that there are no smoking signs posted at the beaches. She continued that moving forward announcements would be made three (3) times a day telling people that there is no smoking on the beaches. If a Lifeguard sees someone smoking they can radio a beach manager who can tell them where they can smoke. If someone becomes unruly the police can be notified. Acting Director Hilton mentioned that it is treated seriously as it is an ordinance and is very important.

Julia Beasley asked if there is a proper place for cigarettes to be placed. It was noted that there is a five (5) gallon bucket by the dumpster to dispose of the cigarette butts.

Steven Stolle directed the Commission to a handout he wrote in 2014 to show there was broad support for the Ordinance. He encouraged the Commission to appoint someone to walk the beaches from time to time who has the authority to talk to people who are smoking.

Vice Chairperson Cheryl Dowdell mentioned that it might be difficult to have part time summer employees approach people who are violating the ordinance. She mentioned that there will probably not be a constable on the beach enforcing the ordinance.

Commissioner Ryan Campbell mentioned that there were two parts to the ordinance. That it was an enforcement issue. That there was awareness which was the responsibility of the Parks and Recreation Department but ultimately another entity has the responsibility to enforce it.

Mr. Stolle mentioned that it was a graduated response and that there were secondary things in place like writing on the ticket and announcements, but that someone saying that there was no smoking on the beach was needed. Also, that was a low level response that if received unfavorably would lead to a response from the police. He recommended that if employees were too young to approach patrons older employees who could speak to them might be sought.

Vice-Chairperson Dowdell mentioned that other beaches employ a constable that is budgeted.

Eileen Lader, mentioned that on numerous occasions she has asked people to put out cigarettes and the response was negative. She mentioned that the ordinance was made and needed to be enforced.

Town Administrator Mark Stankiewicz reported that unfortunately the Town could not enforce all ordinances throughout the Town effectively. He gave a zoning ordinance as an example. He mentioned that it will be up to the Beach Manager to ask patrons to stop smoking and could not be left to minimum wage younger employees. If there are issues the police department would be contacted and that the response would be on a priority basis. He cautioned that 100% compliance may not be attainable as there are limited resources to accomplish it.

Ms. Stolle thanked Mr. Stankiewicz for his comments then asked the Commission to read the Ordinance, article 153 Chapter 158. She asked who is responsible and mentioned that no one is doing anything and that the public has no one to go to. She mentioned that her husband worked hard for years to get the ordinance passed and that it was enforceable.

Ms. Stolle cited the enforcement Chapter of the ordinance. She asked that somebody on the staff take it seriously and that it should not be left up to citizens to ask other citizens to put out their cigarettes. That beach goers should be made aware of the Ordinance when they enter the beach. Ms. Stolle asked that there be a plan to identify who is responsible. Ms. Stolle noted 158.44 Penalties, and noted that a penalty could be expulsion from the beach.

Commissioner Campbell asked if their concerns had been taken to the Town Council. Ms. Stolle responded that years ago they had gone to the Town Council to get the Ordinance passed.

Commissioner Campbell noted that a Lifeguard telling a patron that there is no smoking on the beach was awareness but that asking someone to leave the beach was enforcement and may not be the responsibility of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Commissioner Frank mentioned that enforcement needed to be brought to the Town Council and that it was not the Commission's responsibility. That safety was the primary responsibility of the beach manager.

Ms. Stolle mentioned that the ordinance does fall under the responsibility of Parks and Recreation as stated in the Ordinance.

Maureen Areglado of 2 Partridge Run mentioned that some people believe smoking on the beaches is not a big deal but that she has two (2) friends who have a life threatening reaction to smoke and cannot go to the beach. She asked that a fine be implemented to deter smoking. She also offered that the parking rates for non-residents be raised and that the funds received from the increase in price go to the salary to someone who could enforce it.

Ron Areglado of 2 Partridge Run asked that the Commission make a recommendation to the Town Council through the Liaison. He asked that the recommendation be made to include a plan to address some of the concerns. He asked that the personnel at the entrance remind people that it is a smoke free beach. He mentioned that it was a simple and proactive solution.

Commissioner Campbell read a portion of the ordinance pertaining to the \$500 fine.

Town Administrator Stankiewicz mentioned that when someone is abusive the police be contacted who would then issue the fines. The issue would then be handled through the municipal court, which has been proven to be effective.

Joe Quadrato of 41 East Quail Run mentioned that a lot of the problem was that there was no one speaking to people smoking on the beach and likened it to speeding on the highway. He mentioned that if the ordinance was enforced a few times word would get around that smoking is taken seriously and that there are repercussions to those caught smoking on the beach.

Julia Beasley applauded the efforts it took to get the ordinance passed and mentioned that it takes years to make public change. She noted that there is clearly a plan and that the Commission takes the issue seriously.

Maureen Areglado noted that on airplanes people ignore the flight attendants statements and that when people go to the beach they are preoccupied and may not notice the signs posted. She asked that a sign noting fines be posted at the entrance to catch people's attention.

The Commission discussed identifying a meter-maid type person who could potentially hand out tickets at the beach. It was noted that an officer in a uniform should issue tickets as identification of a person would be needed.

The Commission discussed what someone should do if they see someone smoking which included informing the Lifeguard who would call the beach manager who would then talk to the offender.

Motion to make a recommendation to the Town Council that the Commission has a statement to make regarding the smoking ordinance and policy, and that it will be enforced through the awareness program, signage and the chain of Command to the Chief of Police.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Julia Beasley, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Richard E. Horstmann, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Eaves, Dowdell, Beasley, Campbell, Cummings, DeMerchant, Deyorio, Frank, Horstmann, Vazquez
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Quillen, Currier, Nowell

- b. Motion to table Community/Senior Center Programs

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>TABLED [UNANIMOUS]</b>	<b>Next: 5/26/2015 7:00 PM</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Jodi Frank, Commissioner	
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Edward Vazquez, Commissioner	
<b>AYES:</b>	Eaves, Dowdell, Beasley, Campbell, Cummings, DeMerchant, Deyorio, Frank, Horstmann, Vazquez	
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Quillen, Currier, Nowell	

Motion to approve the Junior Golf Lessons Program and Full Moon Yoga Program

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Edward Vazquez, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Jodi Frank, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Eaves, Dowdell, Beasley, Campbell, Cummings, DeMerchant, Deyorio, Frank, Horstmann, Vazquez
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Quillen, Currier, Nowell

## 6. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

### a. Southern RI Volunteers Bottles and Brews Wine and Beer Tasting

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>WITHDRAWN</b>
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### b. Southern RI Volunteers Tag Sale

Executive Director of Southern RI Volunteers Deb Tanner, presented her application for the Tag Sale Event. She mentioned that they were asking to host a Tag Sale open to the public from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM and that rental fees would be charged to individuals to rent a space. Director Tanner noted that the proceeds would go towards supporting the Independent Aging Program, which provides transportation to medical appointments and food from the food pantry.

The Commission asked that the application be amended to reflect the correct 501c3 status. Director Tanner mentioned that it would provide exposure to persons who want to have a yard sale, but live on a road that may not have many homes.

The Commission discussed the location of the event and asked that it be placed in the Kimball pavilion and surrounding area leaving the Criterium Course and Soccer Fields free.

Commission member Julia Beasley motioned to approve the application to reflect the 501c3 status and the Kimball Pavilion and surrounding area to not include the soccer fields and course.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED AS AMENDED [8 TO 1]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Julia Beasley, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Edward Vazquez, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Eaves, Dowdell, Beasley, Campbell, Cummings, Deyorio, Frank, Vazquez
<b>NAYS:</b>	Horstmann
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	DeMerchant
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Quillen, Currier, Nowell

### c. RI Riptide 2015 Field Usage Application for Puchalski Field Games

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>WITHDRAWN</b>
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d. RI Riptide 2015 Field Usage Application Ninigret Park

Commissioner Sunny Cummings mentioned that the organization is not a 501c3 but that it is a not for profit. She mentioned that they had, in the past put work into the field.

Edward Vazquez motioned to accept the RI Riptide application on the basis that they provide their time, manpower and supplies into fixing the fields that they use.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [7 TO 0]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Edward Vazquez, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Keith D. DeMerchant, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Dowdell, Beasley, Cummings, DeMerchant, Deyorio, Frank, Vazquez
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	Eaves, Campbell, Horstmann
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Quillen, Currier, Nowell

e. Rhode Island Masters Games 2015 Ninigret Park Usage Application

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Holly Eaves, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Jodi Frank, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Eaves, Dowdell, Beasley, Campbell, Cummings, DeMerchant, Deyorio, Frank, Horstmann, Vazquez
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Quillen, Currier, Nowell

f. Chariho 7th Grade Field Day Ninigret Park Application

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Sonita K. Cummings, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Jodi Frank, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Eaves, Dowdell, Beasley, Campbell, Cummings, DeMerchant, Deyorio, Frank, Horstmann, Vazquez
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Quillen, Currier, Nowell

g. Chariho 6A Team End of Year Picnic Ninigret Park Application

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Jodi Frank, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Sonita K. Cummings, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Eaves, Dowdell, Beasley, Campbell, Cummings, DeMerchant, Deyorio, Frank, Horstmann, Vazquez
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Quillen, Currier, Nowell

h. Wagner Family Memorial Event Application

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Richard E. Horstmann, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Sonita K. Cummings, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Eaves, Dowdell, Beasley, Campbell, Cummings, DeMerchant, Deyorio, Frank, Horstmann, Vazquez
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Quillen, Currier, Nowell

- i. Flagpole Gardens Update Letter from Cody Clarkin

<b>RESULT: NO VOTE TAKEN</b>
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## 7. PARKS AND RECREATION ACTING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- a. Acting Parks and Recreation Director's Report

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Jodi Frank, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Richard E. Horstmann, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	Eaves, Dowdell, Beasley, Campbell, Cummings, DeMerchant, Deyorio, Frank, Horstmann, Vazquez
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Quillen, Currier, Nowell

## 8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Friends of Ninigret Park Subcommittee Report

Friends of Ninigret Park Subcommittee member Edward Vazquez reported that the Subcommittee had met the previous week to talk about the Fall event. Mr. Vazquez noted that the event might replace the Harvest Festival and would be a single day event with a car show and other activities. He mentioned there is going to be a new logo.

- b. Dog Park Subcommittee Report

Sunny Cummings reported that the Subcommittee had scheduled a meeting the previous Saturday but that there was not a quorum. She mentioned a Dog Walk event on Saturday June 13, 2015 from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

- c. Tree Steward's Report

Tree Steward Jodi Frank reported that there were eight (8) Linden trees ready to be planted. Town Administrator Mark Stankiewicz reported that if given enough time the Department of Public Works may be able to assist planting the trees.

## 9. COMMISSION COMMENTS

Commissioner DeMerchant mentioned he may resign from the Commission and thanked the Commission.

Commissioner Campbell noted the amount of work load picked up by an extra person.

Commissioner Cummings noted the Park was getting busy again and wished the staff well.

Commissioner Eaves requested how to get items on the agenda.

Commissioner Horstmann noted that the forms have nothing to do with the Commission and that there is unnecessary information. He noted that it was a lot of wasted time and effort in the paperwork.

Commissioner Beasley noted she would set up a work day for the rink that was very successful the past winter. She asked that the proper leadership be sought.

## 10. NEXT MEETING DATE - TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2015 AT 7:00 PM IN THE TOWN HALL'S TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 4540 SOUTH COUNTY TRAIL

## 11. Town Council Next Meeting Date May 11, 2015

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

Holly Eaves motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 PM