

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES

Thursday April 24, 2014 @ 7:00 PM

Open Meeting at the Town Hall in the Council Chambers

4540 South County Trail

Charlestown, RI 02813

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The April 24, 2014 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM in the Town Council Chambers.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present at the meeting were Commission Members Tim Quillen, Ed Vazquez, Sunny Cummings, Julia Beasley, Keith DeMerchant, Susie Fehrmann and Richard Horstmann.

Also present at the meeting was Parks and Recreation Director Jay Primiano, Program Manager Vicky Hilton, Town Administrator Mark Stankiewicz and Town Council Liaison Paula Andersen.

Not present at the meeting were Commission members Cheryl Dowdell, Jodi Frank, Ryan Campbell, Tom Nowell and Donna Deyorio.

Ed Vazquez motioned to move Agenda items 6. a., 6. i. and 7.c. to after Agenda item 2. The motion was seconded by Sunny Cummings. Tim Quillen, Julia Beasley, Keith DeMerchant, Susie Fehrmann and Richard Horstmann were in favor. All members present were in favor, the motion was passed unanimously.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Updated Master Plan Presentation by Michael Moonan of Weston & Sampson with comments from the public:

Michael Moonan and Evan Andrikos of Weston and Sampson presented the revisions to the Master Plan Concept.

Mr. Moonan stated the plan was revised to use existing structures and features to reduce overall costs to the plan. The plan also addressed multi-use problems that have been identified.

Changes from the 2008 Master Plan include utilizing existing roads and pavement for the roundabout and the parking areas, changing the proposed baseball fields to an open play field that can be used for future needs, fencing around the Criterium Bicycle Course, a community center/museum located at the entrance of the park, the dog park location changed to the current location, and a pedestrian walkway to allow pedestrians, baby carriages and children to walk separated from the road. The

pedestrian walkway may utilize existing pavement. The roundabout will provide high visibility to the memorial and highlight it.

Also, a loop path located throughout the park that will encourage patrons to walk from one area to another. Play pods installed along the loop trail will provide destinations for walkers.

Mr. Moonan identified Phase One of the plan as the performance and roundabout areas that will accommodate events in the park while allowing the other elements of the park to be utilized. The 2008 Master Plan Phase One was for roadway infrastructure. The revised Master Plan Phase One would be an income generator. Phase One includes bringing increases in the electrical capacity to the park.

Mr. Moonan stated the plan was ready to be presented to the Town Council.

Mr. Moonan stated that the performance area is curved, banked and designed to project sound towards the gravel pit and away from the residential area. The banks may be topped by a sound barrier wall. The plan is designed to reduce the use of generators that will reduce noise.

Mr. Moonan stated the Community Garden does have room to expand.

Mr. Moonan stated the pedestrian walkways may be ten (10) feet wide and could foreseeably accommodate races.

i. Public Comments:

Mr. Horstmann asked if other phases of the project had been identified. Mr. Moonan replied that future phases of the project may be determined by use and need.

TM Dyer asked if the walking path would be on the same side of the road as Hole five (5) on the Disc Golf Course. Mr. Moonan stated the walking path was designed to be on the opposite side of the road as the Disc Golf course.

The performance area was identified to be on the Town owned fifty-five (55) acres. The access road was identified to be closed off during events, while larger events could utilize both sides of the access road.

The number of parking spaces was identified to have approximately one thousand eight hundred (1,800) spaces with potential overflow parking spaces. With a total of approximately three thousand five hundred (3,500) spaces available.

Bonnie Van Slyke asked if a survey would be conducted. The Commission stated that a survey had been conducted and found the survey was still good.

Bonnie Van Slyke questioned the changes from the 2008 Mater Plan. She questioned how it was going to be lighted and what the sanitary facilities would be. She asked what the multi-uses would be.

Town Council Liaison Paula Andersen responded that the performing arts center would encompass all the events the park currently has.

Ms. Van Slyke questioned how the residential areas and the rest of the park would be protected from noise during events.

The commission responded that there would not be an event every weekend.

Mr. Moonan explained that the Master Plan was a guide for development, and that revisions could be identified and developed as needed and that the Master Plan is a working framework for the whole park.

Town Administrator, Mark Stankiewicz identified that the Plan would have to go before the voters and that each piece would be engineered and designed.

Ms. Van Slyke asked why there were changes being made to the 2008 Master Plan.

Mr. Stankiewicz stated the revisions were designed to address problems with the 2008 Master Plan including building the stage to project towards Route One.

Bonnie Van Slyke asked if there were engineered plans with specifications.

Mr. Moonan responded that there was an RFP (Request For Proposal) that was placed, with responses but no plans and stated that site investigations would need to be conducted. He continued to state that many of the features in the 2008 Master Plan were kept, but revised to reduce costs and address multi-use issues.

Anita Baxter, President of Arnolda Improvement Corporation stated that there are concerns about the event center. She asked if the new events area was discussed to accommodate 15,000 patrons. She asked the commission what the long term use was going to be.

Parks and Recreation Director Jay Primiano stated that the Town Council has always supported a percentage of camping sites during events and that the campers represent a percentage of attendees. Director Primiano stated that attendees to events are limited by parking spaces.

Julia Beasley stated that the thought process has been to provide a safer cleaner space for the current events that the park hosts.

Chairperson Tim Quillen stated that the architects and engineers would decide how many spaces the area could accommodate.

Anita Baxter questioned what type of sound dampening techniques would be utilized.

Mr. Moonan stated a berm with a sound dampening wall was used in the 2008 Master Plan.

Ms. Baxter asked if a raised stage would affect the plan.

Keith DeMerchant stated the stage was moved to reduce sound. Tim Quillen said a sound engineer would be used to determine decibel levels.

Ms. Baxter asked what the long term goal was for the park, to bring more money, economic development or recreation.

Tim Quillen stated he has heard that many small scale events would like to utilize the park and not have to bring in generators, lighting, porta-

johns. An event center would allow smaller events to have a turnkey event.

Faith LaBossiere asked what the capacity of the venue center could be at the maximum.

Mr. Moonan stated that potentially 12,000 attendees could be accommodated without camping in the event area.

Ms. LaBossiere asked if the lighting would be dark sky compliant.

Chairperson Tim Quillen responded that Dark Sky compliant permanent lights would allow events to have fixed lights instead of temporary lighting that is not dark sky compliant.

Clarkson Collins, Chairperson of Frosty Drew, asked if the narrative would include the intended size of expected attendees. Tim Quillen stated that each user has to go to the Commission then to the Town Council for approval.

Frank Glista asked about the Town Park location since the default location is near the flag pole.

Mr. Moonan stated that the Town Park within the park could be the flag pole area, since by default it is a park within the park. The other Town Park that was proposed in the 2008 Master Plan and was designed to be more for the Community/Senior Center.

Parks and Recreation Director Jay Primiano asked if the Community Center would include the Senior Center that way multiple generations would be in one area.

Charlie Vandemoer of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service stated he was in support of the play pods and multiuse walking paths. Mr. Vandemoer asked if the walking paths could continue into the refuge. He asked that the narrative include goals for sound mitigation and recognize areas of concern and methods that could be used to reduce sound. Mr. Vandemoer asked about a lighting plan, what kind of lights will be in the parking area, and that consideration be given to vehicles exiting the park at night getting out of exits at night and the lighting impact that could

have. Mr. Vandemoer suggested that the festival area has many shrubs and that they could be transplanted to other areas of the park.

Julia Beasley motioned to review the narrative at the next Parks and Recreation meeting on May 27, 2014. The motion was seconded by Ed Vazquez.

Tim Quillen, Sunny Cummings, Keith DeMerchant, Susie Fehrmann and Richard Horstmann were in favor. All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

7. c. Worship Jam – The Rock Productions/The Lighthouse Event:

Rick Provost presented the application for Worship Jam, a Christian music festival. Mr. Provost stated he would like to set up a week ahead of Chuck Wentworth's Rhythm and Roots Music Festival and run the events back-to-back utilizing some of the same equipment. Mr. Provost stated he had met with Mr. Wentworth and he agreed to sharing the equipment and combining advertising. Mr. Provost stated Chuck Wentworth is in favor of this collaboration.

Mr. Provost stated that the Disc Golf course and tennis court utilization marked on the application was a mistake and that he was not seeking for those area(s) to be reserved, but that they would be open to the public.

Richard Horstmann motioned to approve the event. Sunny Cummings seconded the motion. Tim Quillen, Ed Vazquez, Keith DeMerchant, Julia Beasley and Susie Fehrmann were in favor. All were in favor the motion passed unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes – March 25, 2014

Richard Horstmann motioned to approve the March 25, 2014 Draft Minutes. The motion was seconded by Sunny Cummings. Tim Quillen, Julia Beasley, Keith DeMerchant, Susie Fehrmann and Ed Vazquez were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

4. COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC:

There were no comments from the public at the time.

5. TOWN COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT:

Town Council Liaison Paula Andersen mentioned the Advisory Opinion that was submitted to the Town Council regarding fee structures in Ninigret Park and the resulting motion made by the town council to hire a consultant.

The Commission discussed the possibility of including in the Request for Proposal the possibility of having the consultant give the report to the Commission then, with commission approval forwarding the report to the Town Council.

Keith DeMerchant motioned to move 7.i. up to after the Town Council Liaison Report to accommodate the representatives from Soccerplus Juniors Academy. The motion was seconded by Ed Vazquez. Tim Quillen, Sunny Cummings, Richard Horstmann, Susie Fehrmann and Julia Beasley were in favor. All Commission members were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

a. Park Rental Fee Report:

No motion was made and no vote was taken.

8. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

a. Comets & Meteor Showers - Meridian Project:

Richard Horstmann motioned to approve the application for the Meridian Project. Susie Fehrmann seconded the motion. Tim Quillen, Julia Beasley, Sunny Cummings, Ed Vazquez and Keith DeMerchant approved the motion. All members approved the motion passed unanimously.

b. Northeasterners FMCA Application:

FMCA Application was tabled until the May 27, 2014 meeting to allow the applicant to present the application. No motion was made and no vote was taken.

d. Southern RI Volunteers Harvest Festival:

Sunny Cummings motioned to approve the SRIV Harvest Festival Application. Keith DeMerchant seconded the motion. Tim Quillen, Ed Vazquez, Richard Horstmann Julia Beasley and Susie Fehrmann were in favor. All were in favor the motion passed unanimously.

e. Charlestown Elementary Grade 4 Picnic:

Susie Fehrmann motioned to approve the application. Sunny Cummings seconded the motion. Tim Quillen, Ed Vazquez, Richard Horstmann, Julia Beasley and Keith DeMerchant were in favor. All were in favor the motion passed unanimously.

f. Rick Newhouse Race – Arc en ciel Race Team:

Sunny Cummings motioned to approve the application for the Charlestown Elementary Grade 4 Picnic. Susie Fehrmann seconded the motion. Tim Quillen, Ed Vazquez, Richard

Horstmann, Julia Beasley and Keith DeMerchant were in favor. All were in favor the motion passed unanimously.

g. Rhode Island Riptide – Summer 2014 Season:

Sunny Cummings motioned to approve the RI Riptide 2014 application. Ed Vazquez seconded the motion. Tim Quillen, Susie Fehrmann, Richard Horstmann, Julia Beasley and Keith DeMerchant were in favor. All were in favor the motion passed unanimously.

h. GPS Rhode Island – Soccer Camp:

Sunny Cummings motioned to approve the GPS Soccer RI Soccer Camp application. Ed Vazquez seconded the motion. Tim Quillen, Susie Fehrmann, Richard Horstmann, Julia Beasley and Keith DeMerchant were in favor. All were in favor the motion passed unanimously.

i. Soccerplus Juniors Academy – Soccerplus Juniors with Chariho Youth Soccer Association:

Representative Matt Denecort, a coach and collegiate level soccer player presented the application for Soccerplus Juniors Academy.

The purpose of the program is to offer higher level coaching to some players looking for more than a travel experience, and to pool south county communities together to develop a program for U-9, U-10 and U-11 boys and girls. Scholarships are available to those who need it.

Sunny Cummings motioned to approve the application. Ed Vazquez seconded the motion. Tim Quillen, Richard Horstmann, Keith DeMerchant, Julia Beasley and Susie Fehrmann were in favor. All were in favor the motion passed unanimously.

8. SPECIAL PROJECTS

Tree Steward's Report:

There was no Tree Steward report.

9. PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORT

a. Director's Report:

Sunny Cummings motioned to accept the Director's Report. Ed Vazquez seconded the motion. Tim Quillen, Richard Horstmann, Keith DeMerchant, Julia Beasley and Susie Fehrmann were in favor. All were in favor the motion passed unanimously.

10. PROGRAM MANAGER REPORT

a. Program Manager's Report:

Sunny Cummings motioned to accept the Program Manager's Report. Susie Fehrmann seconded the motion. Tim Quillen, Richard Horstmann, Keith DeMerchant, Julia Beasley and Ed Vazquez were in favor. All were in favor the motion passed unanimously.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a. Ninigret Park Dog Park Facility Sub-Committee Report:

Tim Quillen reported that spring cleanup would take place at the Dog Park and loam would be moved.

12. COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Commission members discussed the role of the Commission in the Master Plan and how to educate the public on that role and how the Commission can answer concerns.

Sunny Cummings asked if the Town Council had approved the name for Mud Cove.

Richard Horstmann mentioned the need for a specialized garbage receptacle at the beaches for used doggie bags.

Julia Beasley recommended that the Commission consider posting an editorial about the Master Plan.

13. NEXT MEETING DATE – TUESDAY May 27, 2014 AT 7:00 PM in the Town Council Chambers at 4540 South County Trail

14. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was motioned to adjourn at 9:06 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by Rebecca Crosby

The public is welcome to any meeting of the Town of Charlestown Parks and Recreation Commission.

If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captions) is needed or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please contact (711-364-1240) at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting.