

March 11, 2019

Park and Recreation Commission Meeting

Commissioners: Bobby Beagan, Mara Huston, Jim Marotta

Guests: Pat Brown, Bill Schineller, Jennifer Roberts, John Riordan, Janie Dretler.

Minutes from February 11, 2019 meeting approved as amended.

**Public Comment:** Bill Schineller discussed the sale of Sewataro and requested the Park and Recreation Commission keep it in mind for recreation use if the Town is able to purchase the land. Bobby B. stated the Sewataro land has been discussed repeatedly by the Commission. Bill felt it could be a potential revenue source for the Town.

Mara stated Sewataro never had tax reductions taken, so if sold to the Town the lost revenue to the Town is estimated at \$200,000.

Jim Marotta does not see the Town running a high-end camp program, similar to Camp Sewataro. He said they do not know the current financials for Sewataro.

Bobby B. said the Commission would follow the lead of the Town Manager and the Park and Recreation/Pool Director.

**Fairbank Community Center:** Bobby distributed the Town Manager's plan for renovation of the Fairbank Community Center. He reported the Council on Aging had expressed reservations about the plan and eventually voted against it. They voted to build a separate Senior Center building and locate it on the current basketball courts at Fairbank. The seniors want dedicated space for their activities, not shared space. Kayla stated there is no reciprocal agreement with the Senior Center at this time. The Senior Center requests space on the Recreation side regularly, but Recreation does not have set times to use space in the Senior Center. Seniors use most of their space during the day, but Recreation programs occur during the day also.

Kayla's comments on the Fairbank Renovation Plan:

- 1) Recreation office space is less than what we have now.
- 2) No central reception area
- 3) Lack of bathrooms in program space
- 4) Loss of natural light in pool
- 5) Phasing plan for Recreation is a concern
- 6) Spectator seating is a concern
- 7) Loss of fenced in area/volleyball court. Replacement will have to be included in costs
- 8) Storage space concern

Jim M. believes a financial analysis should come before the design. Need to know what revenues are to develop an operational design.

Janie Dretler stated the Town is working on a phasing in plan and the financials for the renovated Fairbank Community Center before the Town meeting.

Bill S. stated the seniors want program rooms they do not have to share. The proposed renovation does not give them that which is why they are proposing a new Senior Center with the School Department.

Jennifer R. felt the Town residents need to see the project as more than a renovation because there are many new areas to the proposed building.

Bobby did not call for a vote at this time, there were still too many issues. Jim is attending a meeting on the Community Center renovation plan on Tuesday, March 12 and will update at the next meeting.

SPS is okay with 5,000 sq., they are not looking for anything more.

Janie will make sure all P&R Commission members are informed of future meetings on the Fairbank Community Center.

**Director Update:**

Recreation: Summer camps and clinics brochure out, spring and summer brochure will be out shortly. Registration is March 25. Summer camp staffing is underway.

Room three changes are almost complete, making for a better multipurpose room.

Summer concerts schedule is complete. Spring field scheduling is almost complete. Blanket requests are becoming a concern and make it difficult to know if fields being used as requested. Need to come up with a better policy.

Pool: New Aquatic coordinator hired. Swim season has ended, collecting outstanding balances. Need to come up with better policy for billing and perhaps adding late fees.

Broadacre: John Riordan stated Hanora Haynes had passed away. The Town will put focus on the recreation parcel for field development. Will also look at the riding ring to see if there is a use for Recreation.

Jim and Bobby spoke with Melissa last week as others have expressed interest in this area. They want to keep interest in this parcel for Recreation.

**Davis Field:** Bobby met with Dan Nason, Bill O'Rourke and Paul Griffin regarding Davis. Paul G. gave background on what he had proposed in the past. There was discussion that the Conservation Committee would have to be involved for any development at Davis. The next step is for Dan to meet with a landscape architect.

Kayla asked if there was any update on the Cutting Field drainage issue. Bobby reported that Dan spoke with the installer and the turf company is going to look at the field to see if they can determine what is going on with the drainage.

**Updates from CPC, Master Plan:** Next CPC meeting is on March 20. Dick W. not present so no update on Master Plan.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.