

Somers Parks & Recreation Board

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James Papa
Chairman



MEETING MINUTES

June 24, 2015

Chairman Papa opened the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

The members present were: Jim Boniello, Jim Papa, Don Penzine, Kevin Westerman, and John Zattola. Gary Friedman, Stephen Krug, John Papalia and Michele Sanz were absent.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Steve Ralston, as well as Councilmen Clinchy and Garrity were also present.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Zattola to accept the minutes of the May 27, 2015 meeting as submitted. Mr. Penzine seconded the motion. All were in favor.

MR. RALSTON'S REPORT

There were no comments or questions about Mr. Ralston's Report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rey Solano, SYSO Baseball Commissioner reported that the SYSO Baseball program received a \$10,000 grant that they would hopefully like to use to put infield grass back on the Jr. League field.

Newly elected SYSO Board members Greg Gates and Chris Lieberman introduced themselves to the Parks and Recreation Board. They look forward to working with them. Re-elected member Joe Sciacca echoed the same sentiment.

SYSO Softball Commissioner Rick Elliott addressed the Board. A petition has been created and currently has 400 plus signatures on it in hopes that the field at Van Tassell Park will be altered with recommended field dimensions. He is happy that the fence will be moved in. A request was made to formally meet with the Parks and Recreation Board to discuss this issue further. They will be placed on the agenda of the July 22nd meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Capital Projects Discussion

The three Omni tennis courts in Reis Park have reached the end of their lifecycle. These courts are used by the majority of the players. Mr. Ralston will do some additional research between now and the next meeting.

Next week, Mr. Ralston will meet and have a preliminary discussion with Supervisor Morrissey, Chairman Papa, and Historic Properties Board Chairman Emil Antonaccio about erecting a structure by the Wright Reis Homestead to store equipment that is currently being stored around the Homestead outbuildings.

Avalon Bay Recreation Fees Discussion

At their June 4th Town Board Work Session, there was a discussion and agreement to recommend a \$200,000 reduction in the Recreation Fees to the Parks and Recreation Board. The reduction recommendation is based on Avalon Bay's willingness to address the Town's concerns regarding fire prevention by adding fire walls to the attic spaces and taking over the Village Green and keeping it open to the residents of Somers. This would bring their total fee to \$876,450. A motion was made by Chairman Papa to endorse the Town Board's aforementioned recommendation. All were in favor.

2016 Budget

Mr. Ralston will begin working on the 2016 budget shortly. He welcomes any suggestions, etc. that any Board members may have.

Remaining Board Meeting Dates for 2015

The remaining Parks and Recreation Board meeting dates for 2015 are as follows: July 22, September 2, October 28, and December 2. All will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Recreation Center in Van Tassell Park.

OLD BUSINESS

2015 Summer Day Camp Update

The Parks and Recreation Department is looking forward to a successful summer with many new activities and trips planned for the Day Camp. There are 358 campers enrolled compared to 336 in 2014, 392 in 2013 and 441 in 2012. They have had a few inquiries regarding registration and will accept additional participants the week of July 6. All preparations have been completed and they are ready for the 1st day on June 29.

Councilman Garrity praised Mr. Ralston for the great presentation he gave at their last Town Board meeting. He also asked if the campers will be getting a menu for the concession stand and they will.

MR. RALSTON'S COMMENTS

The dedication of the Recreation Administration building to former Parks and Recreation Superintendent Sylvia Kalil was supposed to take place as part of the Opening

Ceremonies during the Independence Day Celebration on Saturday. A decision was made to postpone that until the fall. It will be incorporated with a ribbon cutting ceremony for the playground and work that was done in Reis Park.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Westerman was Chair of the SYSO Election Committee. He looks forward to working with the newly elected members and they look forward to working with the Parks and Recreation Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, July 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the Recreation Center in Van Tassell Park.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Parks & Recreation Board

cc: Parks & Recreation Board
Superintendent of Parks & Recreation
Town Board
Town Clerk