

West Haven Parks & Recreation Commission

Minutes

January 6, 2025

Call the meeting to order: Motion to call meeting to order by Comm. Mays at 7:00 pm.

Present: Chairwoman Mays, Comm. Tompkins, Comm. Depew

Absent: Comm. Beirne, Comm. Freel.

Motion to approve the minutes by Comm. Tompkins, Seconded by Comm. Mays.
Motion carried out by a unanimous vote.

No Correspondence.

No New Business.

Maintenance/Director's Report: Director Paine discussed the Soccer Field is coming along great, John Vinci has paid to have Ivy League reseed and fence in the area to keep it from being used during the winter season. The fences are down at the tennis court at Painter Park. Hindig is doing the courts and 3 trees will be removed. The cedar tree will be milled and reused in some form at the park. The top 4 tennis courts will be one level, proper drainage is a must and the 2 lower courts will be multi-purpose for street hockey, bike riding etc.

He noted that the courts will be demolished in the coming weeks and the goal is to have them done before summer camp begins.

Director Paine says that the side parking lot where the millings are, next to the soccer field will be paved.

The wooden playground is being cleaned up and adding drainage during the winter months, eventually it will need to be replaced.

Director Paine said that the dugouts at Morse Park are going to be demolished and redone with fencing with privacy screens. It is important to keep the homeless and drug addicts out of the park and away from the children.

Director Paine suggested that we take down the fences on field 5 and 6 and reuse field 1 for the challenger league.

Oak Grove and Eco Camp bids are out for review. Should be awarded as soon as the money is in the bank.

Director Paine discussed the computer ransomware incident that happened in late December. He discussed that it was a challenge to work with no computer or phones for over a week but since we use My Rec for our Recreation Department, most of our files were not touched. Director Paine touched base on what precautions were in place to make this issue not as bad as it could of been. Since it was isolated to one server our IT department was prepared and worked hard to recover from the incident.

Director Paine talked about the plantings and design at the beaches. Grant and ARPA money paid for the design, planting, walkways and there is a maintenance clause since they are landscape professionals and we are not.

Director Paine notes that they are getting a new 14 x 28 Lifeguard Shack at Oak Beach to replace the old one for equipment and meeting space for training. They are also ordering 2 smaller sheds that the High School is constructing to be placed at Sea Bluff and Prospect Beach to house equipment, surf boards and flags for the summer beach season.

Also discussed at the meeting was summer picnics at Painter Park. There will be no increases for picnics this year. Director Paine spoke about camp fees need to be increased due to minimum wage increases again for this year. He discussed having to increase wages to camp counselors and new camp counselors will start at minimum wage.

Old Business: Comm. Tompkins asked if the Peace Pole was installed by the public works department. Comm. Depew stated that it was installed near Oak Beach and is looking good.

Comm. Depew made a motion to adjourn. Comm. Tompkins seconded the motion. Motion was carried out by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted by Marianne Gambardella

Please note that these minutes are subject to approval.