

West Haven Park and Recreation Commission  
Minutes of Meeting  
January 7, 2019  
Park Rec. Office

Meeting called to order by Comm. Coyle at 7:02pm.

Present: Comm. Coyle, Comm. Valaitis, Comm. Beirne, Comm. Donovan, Park Rec. Director Bill Slater, Public Works Comm. Tom McCarthy, West Haven City Treasurer Mike Last, Tom Conroy Park Rec. Program Coordinator

Absent: Comm. Tompkins

A motion made to amend the agenda to Maintenance by Dave Coyle. The motion was seconded by Comm. Donovan. The motion was carried out by unanimous vote.

Maintenance:

A. Comm. Coyle welcomes Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Last to the meeting and has suggested that each Park Rec. commissioner introduce themselves to our guests and to express their concerns about the field and city maintenance within the city parks and fields. Comm. Beirne expresses the concern of Painter Park. The lack of lighting in and near the pavilions and supervision of the area along with the vandalism of the tables and benches is hurting the city financially. Mr. Slater explains that he has requested from the police chief's current and in the past to have the officers drive through more frequently and when parked in the upper parking lot if they could be parked in the lower lots so the kids that hang in the park and causing the damage see that the area is being watched and hopefully stop the damage being done. Comm. McCarthy expressed that he hopes to have cameras posted near the pavilions for monitoring. McCarthy also stated that the concrete tables that are in the pavilions now will be removed and replaced with different tables. Comm. Valaitis expressed his concern about the holes on the fields that have been reported to the Parks office along with people speaking with commissioners. Comm. Valaitis states that they need to be fixed before someone gets hurt and the city is liable. Comm. Valaitis suggested that PW commissioner and Park Maintenance department walk the fields prior to starting spring work on them and make a list of what needs to be fixed in order to make the fields safe to be played on. Comm. McCarthy agreed to that suggestion. Comm. Donovan questioned the update on 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave Park and where things stand. Mr. Slater stated that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave Park will not get any of the money from the Haven when they purchased the Bayview Park. That money has to go to a new created park in the city which is now Contact Drive Park. Comm. Donovan also expresses the same concerns as Comm. Beirne and Valaitis. Comm. Coyle states a question of "How can we get dedicated resources on a consistent basis to manage how things are getting done in the city for maintenance? How can improvements be made on communications between Public Works and Parks and Recreation Department? How can these improvements being made be managed?" Comm. McCarthy of DPW explains that he is willing to take all suggestions for new ideas from the commission and Director of Parks & Recreation Bill Slater. Comm. McCarthy has also requested from the Parks Commission a list of 10 improvements from each board member and have them presented at the next meeting that is scheduled for February

4<sup>th</sup> at city hall. Comm. McCarthy will be present along with Mayor Rossi. Comm. Coyle also has requested at the next meeting, that youth league presidents to be present with any questions and concerns of their own to be addressed with Mr. McCarthy and Mayor Rossi.

Motion to amend agenda back to order was set by Comm. Coyle at 7:51pm. Motion seconded by Comm. Donovan. The motion was carried out by unanimous vote.

Motion set by Comm. Donovan to accept the minutes from the meeting of January 7, 2019 seconded by Comm. Valaitis. The motion was carried out by unanimous vote.

Correspondence:

A. None

New Business:

A. Budget- Mr. Slater explains the budget preparations will begin next month. Mr. Slater Expresses concern because there are items that are looking to be fixed at the pool that the BOE is looking to have fixed by us. Mr. Slater states that his budget doesn't consist of money for these types of repairs. Mr. Last stated that he may be looking into adding a budget line to the Parks and Recreation budget for these types of situations. This subject is something to be worked on hopefully comes back to the board during the budget preparations.

B. Meeting Minutes- The commission was presented through email the following dates of when this commission will meet in the year of 2019:

January 7<sup>th</sup>  
February 4<sup>th</sup>  
March 4<sup>th</sup>  
April 1<sup>st</sup>  
May 6<sup>th</sup>  
June 3<sup>rd</sup>  
July 1<sup>st</sup>  
Aug 5<sup>th</sup>  
Sept 9<sup>th</sup>  
Oct 7<sup>th</sup>  
Nov 4<sup>th</sup>  
Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>

A motion to accept these dates was set by Comm. Valaitis. The motion was seconded by Comm. Beirne. The motion was carried out by unanimous vote.

C. None

Old Business:

A. Nate Carr- Mr. Carr came before the commission to explain the project for his Eagle Scout program. He will be building 5 library boxes and place them in the following places:

1. Benches at Sea View Ave
2. Sea Bluff Parking Lot
3. Wooden Playground Benches
4. Cross over the bridges on Beach St
5. Parking Lot at Morris Lot

Motion to approve this project for Nate Carr was set by Comm. Valaitis. The motion was seconded by Comm. Donovan. The motion was carried out by unanimous vote.

B. State Grant- Mr. Last notified the commission that the state grant presented to the commission by State Rep DiMassa has been decreased to \$140,000.00. Mr. Slater and the commission will put together a list where the money can be used to make improvements to facilities.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Coyle, seconded by Commissioner Beirne and carried by unanimous vote at 8:06 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Kerri Ruocco

Please note these minutes are subject to approval.