

**Phyllis Hawkins
14 Beach Drive, Darien CT**

RTM Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes for May 1, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 by Chairman Adele Conniff who presided.

Twelve members were present: Chairman Conniff, Vice-Chair Diane Conologue, Curtis Butler, Chris Ezbiansky, Ken Fiveson, Tim Goertel, Phyllis Hawkins, Andrew Millar, Sue-Ellen Mitchell, Heather Pommernelle, Cheryl Russell, Bill Van Loan.

Absent were: Carlo Cantavero, Harry McLachlin, Susan Lauritzen.

Also in attendance were: Lauren Calahan, Elizabeth Klein, Jenny Schwartz, and Lynn Wilson.

The minutes of the March 6th and March 20th meetings were discussed. Chris Ezbiansky and Sue-Ellen Mitchell were added to the names of those present at the March 6th meeting. Susan Lauritzen and Tim Goertel were added as absent at that same meeting. After these corrections were made to the March 6th minutes, both sets of minutes were approved.

There was then a discussion of the 2017-2018 Board of Finance Approved Budget for the Parks and Recreation Department. The committee reviewed the operating budget. Chairman Conniff told the committee that the 2017-2018 operating budget was essentially the same as last year's.

The changes from last year in the capital budget were then discussed as were the various revenues brought into the town by Darien's parks and recreational facilities. There was also a question as to the rental fee for the food concessions at both beaches.

Chairman Conniff then asked the four non-committee members in attendance whether they wanted to express an opinion regarding the budget before the committee voted. The non-committee members explained that they were present because of their concerns about the future development of Darien's newly acquired Ox Ridge Hunt Club property.

The committee then voted unanimously in support of the 2017-2018 budget.

Chairman Conniff then gave a Park Master Plan update. She told the committee that a random mailing of surveys has gone out to 3,000 households from Weston and Sampson/Greenplay LLC, the firms commissioned for the Darien Park Master Plan. Although that survey will be given primary weight in Greenplay's recommendations for the future of Darien's parks and recreational facilities, the rest of the residents of Darien will be able to take a survey that will soon appear online or attend public hearings to express their opinions.

Vice-Chair Conologue then reported on the upcoming Weed Beach Fest which will take place at Weed Beach on Saturday, June 17th from 3 to 8pm. There will be music, food, entertainment, and activities. There is a need for volunteers to help.

Mrs. Conniff then gave the chairman's report. She offered updates on the Ox Ridge Hunt Club property, Selleck's Wood's parking, the Junior Sailing program, and kayak/paddleboard rental at Weed Beach. She told those present that the Parks and Recreation Committee will be part of a joint committee meeting regarding the Public Works garage on June 5th. The Public Works garage will need RTM approval for which the Parks and Recreation Committee will be a secondary committee.

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Chairman Conniff reminded those present that there will be a Western Connecticut COG meeting on May 11th to consider the Noroton Heights station area. She encouraged anyone interested to attend.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Hawkins, Clerk