

Minutes from the joint meeting of Darien Parks and Recreation Committee and Darien Finance and Budget Committee

October 21, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. with the following Darien Parks and Recreation Committee members present: Patti Bumgardner; Diane Conologue; Susanne Handler; Cheryl Russell; Adele Conniff; Sue-Ellen Mitchell; Sandy Savage; Mark Adiletta; Ken Fiveson; Jennifer Moller; Susan Lauritzen; Emily McDermott; Bill Van Loan.

The meeting was originally scheduled to further discuss the acceptance of the Darien Athletic Foundation and the Darien Foundation's gift of \$1,500,000 for the Weed Beach Meadow and Trail Improvements. The meeting began with the F&B chairman announcing that the resolution was being pulled from a vote as DAF and DF had not buttoned up the finance numbers. It was mentioned that the additional costs to maintain the upgraded Weed Beach Meadow and Trails would be minimal as new equipment has been added to increase efficiency in order to free up man hours and costs. Additional maintenance cost should be less than \$5,000 a year.

As members from the Parks and Recreation Commission were in attendance it provided an opportunity for many questions the P&R Committee members had to be answered. It was mentioned that the EPC had cleared the project for Short Lane and that DAF and DF wanted their own contractors to perform the work. Discussion continued regarding liability for unsatisfactory work and it was mentioned that a performance bond most likely would be written into the contract to safeguard potential problems. Discussion then turned to the installation of the boardwalk. Many members were concerned that a boardwalk would reduce the size of the beach. It was mentioned that the beach will actually become more accessible to all residents of Darien with the installation of the boardwalk and that the boardwalk was in the plans from the original Weed Beach improvement from many years ago.

The F&B chair mentioned that this could be voted on before the State of the Town RTM meeting or perhaps in January. A committee member was concerned as this could delay the project that many were in hopes would be completed in time for the Town of Darien's celebration in June. It was noted that it was important to iron out all of the concerns and not be rushed to a hasty decision.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sue-Ellen Mitchell