

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY MARCH 4, 2024
7:30 P.M.
COMMISSION ROOM
Meeting Minutes**

Official actions of the commission in these minutes are indicated by underlining.

The Weston Parks and Recreation Commission (WPRC) held a special monthly meeting on March 4, 2024 in person. Commissioners present: Elizabeth Pocsik, Doug Ries, Mark Crowley, Larry Shore and Michael Schramm. Also present: Dave Ungar (Parks & Recreation Director), Lynn Stevens (Aquatic Director) and Joe Parciasepe (Program Director) Public present, Marissa Aulenbach, Stephen Aulenbach, Evelyn Jones, Paul Russo, Diane Daughtry, Kay Byrnes, Yvonne Levine, Leslie Floyd ,Joanne Missey, Rich Huey, Virginia Ammidone, Harrison Biggs, Jim Kohler, Rondi Olson, Pat Cline and Ray Moran.

Call to order at 7:31 PM by Chairwoman Pocsik. There was a motion to approve the minutes of the monthly Commission meeting on February 12, 2024. Motion approved unanimously 3-0 with Vice Chairman Crowley abstaining and Commissioner Schramm not yet available for the vote at the meeting.

1) Public Forum

Paul Russo spoke on behalf of the pickle ball players who presently play at the Weston Senior Center. Mr. Russo explained that pickle ball is a healthy activity for senior citizens to enjoy and stay active. Mr. Russo read from a statement and provided the Commission with a signed petition to support the construction of pickle ball courts at Bisceglie Scribner Park. Other residents in attendance spoke up about the need for these courts to be approved and constructed in Weston for the benefit of the community.

A discussion followed about the need for the neighbors to have some comfort about the level of noise that could become an issue from the courts being in proximity to their property.

At the Commission meeting in February, the Commission agreed to look in to noise abatement strategies to reduce the impact of pickle ball to the neighboring homeowner's properties. After researching the noise abatement issue with many sources and reaching out to some sources for further information about their products, Parks & Recreation has identified a product that has been identified in the Athletic Business magazine as an appropriate material to screen the courts and offers noise abatement benefits of up to 30 db. Parks & Recreation will work to mitigate any noise issue to be at or under the state noise ordinance level as Weston does not have a noise ordinance.

2) Unfinished Business.

a) The proposal of new pickle ball courts at the Bisceglie - Scribner park location which was approved by the Commission was presented to the Board of Selectmen on January 18th for their review and they voted unanimously to refer the project to Planning and Zoning for an 8-24. On February 5th, The Planning and Zoning Commission voted to approve the project as appropriate for the Bisceglie -Scribner Park location after a presentation and discussion. The

Conservation Commission conducted a site walk of the location on Saturday March 2nd and will review the application at their March 21st meeting.

- 3) Reports from standing committees.
 - a) Administrative Committee
 - i) Chairwoman Pocsik reported that there was some news to report on filling the one remaining Commission vacancy. Interviews are scheduled to take place at the Board of Selectmen on Thursday March 7th for the interested candidates.
 - b) Aquatics Committee
 - i. Lynn Stevens reported the swim lesson registration that begins tonight. The spring season lessons will be a shorter duration. Lynn is looking to add programs such as scuba diving, Lifeguard Training, diving and after school lessons.
 - c) Fields Committee
 - i). Dave reported that the parks contract has gone out to bid for the next three year Bisceglie and Morehouse Farm Parks maintenance contract. Three companies responded and submitted bids. The awarded contract will be with Greenway Athletic fields the company that provided the lowest bid. This will be subject to successful completion of reference check.
 - d) Program Committee

Joe Parciasepe reported on the 50 various programs registering tonight. Joe and Lynn took 32 participants to Mount Snow by coach bus on February 26th which was a professional development day with students off from school. There was a youth basketball season ending Family Fun Night on Friday the 16th at the High School where family games were held and pizza was provided. Over 80 people attended this event.
- 4) New Business
 - a) The FY 2024/25 Parks & Recreation proposed Budget was reviewed by the Board of Selectmen. The Board of Finance review is on Zoom on March 12th at 6:pm
 - b) The RFP and specifications for the landscaping contract for Bisceglie Scribner Park and Morehouse Farm Parks are posted on the Town Website. Proposals are due to the Town Hall on Friday February 29th by noon for the next three year contract.
- 5) Correspondence,

Chairwoman Pocsik reported on attending the LWV Speak Up which was held on Saturday March 2nd at the library.
- 6) Announcements, Remarks for the good of the order,

Next meeting will be Monday April 8th.
- 7) Adjournment: Chairwoman Pocsik motions to adjourn. Motion passes unanimously.

8:48pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

David E. Ungar

Director,
Weston Parks and Recreation Department