



City of Westfield  
Parks and Recreation Department  
Commission Meeting  
January 23, 2017

Commissioners Present: Kimberly Irzyk, Vincent Olinski, Kenneth Magarian, Michael Tirrell, Sara Unger, Robert Veronesi and Renee Wroth

Commissioner absent: Adam Rivera

Staff Present: Jim Blascak, Program Coordinator and Peg Goralczyk

Meeting called to order at 7: 01 p.m. with Chairperson, Ken Magarian, presiding.

Motion made by Vincent Olinski to accept the minutes of November 21, 2016, motion seconded by Kimberly Irzyk. All in favor  
Motion passed

There was no meeting held in December

Public Participation:

1. Dan Paquette, Director of Westfield Athenaeum

Old Business:

1. Ken welcomed Michael Tirrell, Ward 5 and he introduced himself to everyone.
2. Commissioners were concerned Adam Rivera did not call or attend meeting tonight. Peg will try to locate a phone number; she stated he received a couple of letters to get set up for employment as a commissioner and a copy of the January agenda.
3. Ken informed commissioners he has a request to change the meeting times from 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and asked commissioners of their input.
4. Robert Veronesi responded he has been with the commission for thirty-nine years and is requesting that the commission meetings be changed from the third Monday of the month to the second Monday of the month, the way it used be years ago. This will help with the holidays that follow on the third Monday of each month. He is also requesting to change the time from 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. where he can attend meetings. This time change will help him to attend more meetings when he is not refereeing. He also mentioned that he has had family commitments and that is one of the reasons he missed a few meetings.

5. Deputy Superintendent of Parks and Recreation-Ken handed out a memo and read the announcement as follows: "As explained at our September 19, 2016 meeting (cited in the minutes), we have reactivated our Commission subcommittee for Personnel which is made up of Sara Unger, Renee Wroth, and Vincent Olinski with myself as Chair being a non-voting ex-officio. A final job description has been completed and advertised. Movement has started for filling the position and within the next few months, we anticipate holding meetings and interviews depending upon the candidate pool. Meetings/interviews will be held in this building and will be open to the full commission. Upon completion of the process, the Personnel committee will bring forth to the full commission their recommendation. At that time, the commission will consider the recommendation and eventually take a vote as to the final candidate to send forward to the hiring authority, which is David Billips, Director of Public Works. A hiring date is projected/budgeted as soon as possible."

#### New Business or Items for Discussion

1. Ken welcomed Dan Paquette, Director of the Westfield Athenaeum and he is here tonight requesting to use Park Square on Saturday, June 24, 2017 for a summer reading kickoff event. He stated the library is under construction and having the event at Park Square will be an opportunity to be outdoors. The event starts 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. He explained the summer annual event would include a magician, lunch by picnic style and reading books from 1:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. Includes local authors for book signing and people can bring their own chairs to the park or a blanket. The event will also include performers, vendors, and light refreshments.
2. Kimberly asked Dan how many people he expects to attend. Dan responded an estimate of 200 people.
3. Sara asked Dan if he is planning on using the pavilion and do you have a rain date. Dan responded that he would also like to use the pavilion for reading books. There is no rain date, he will use another alternate location indoors possibly the boys and girls club or a school.
4. Ken asked Dan Paquette if he has a permit completed with dates and times and Dan responded that he has checked off both Park Square and Pavilion.
5. Ken asked if anyone had any questions or concerns regarding changing the meeting date and time. Kim responded that 7:30 is too late for her and stated all the other boards meetings are held at 5:30 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m., or 7:00 p.m. She will make most meetings but her thoughts were this was a little too late.
6. Mike Tirrell responded that in the spring and summer months 7:30 p.m. would be better for him with his schedule. He is flexible for either Mondays.
7. Sara, Vincent, Bob had no concerns in changing the time to 7:30 p.m. Renee was undecided. Ken stated it did not matter to him anytime works for him.
8. Jim handed out a letter from Jay Vinskey, Planning Development regarding the Open Space and Recreation Plan (2010) is set to expire in September. Vincent Olinski went over details of the committee and expressed interest in serving on the board however is looking for interested commissioners to serve on this committee with him and help establish open space and recreation goals for the future. He explained this is a long process and we need to complete forms and submit them for our goals. He stated every seven years we need to submit the forms located on the CPA website. Meetings are held quarterly, and the next

meeting is in April and several groups submit their proposals. Vincent explained to Mike Tirrell the process, and the commission needs our goals of what we the commissioners would like to see, as a priority list, possibly a new spray park somewhere or new playground equipment. The next CPA meeting is in April. Vincent reminded commissioners that he brings this information every year to the commission; it is up to the department to move it forward. Ken responded that Dave Billips is not here tonight and he has goals, and we have plans for our parks and playgrounds he may know people that can help with the proposals.

9. Jim Blascak presented a few maps regarding Papermill playground, and stated that Ken Diegel, Westfield Little League President provided a change to the fields for more open grass areas. He stated that Kim Irzyk received an email at the last meeting regarding a resident wanted more open space grass areas for children to play on and not all ball fields. Ken Diegel stopped in the office with a solution to the fields from the email. (Ken was at the meeting)
10. Ken Magarian asked Jim check with Ken Diegle if he is available to attend the February meeting next month, and we can go over this with him. Also his goals for the year.
11. Mike Tirell stated that the ball fields are maintained well by the Westfield Little League field managers. The city mows some areas however, the league fills in the ruts, and plants grass seed. He has seen other fields in the city and Westfield Little League does a great job keeping the ball fields groomed and maintained. He mentioned he has coached and has seen what the league does for the city ball fields. They do a great job. He stated that Papermill Playground fields are flat and open.
12. Renee responded she would like to see the gravel removed and replaced with grass at Papermill Playground.

#### Items for Action:

1. Motion made by Vincent Olinski to change the meeting from the third Monday of each month to the second Monday of each month. Motion seconded by Renee. Vote as follows: Sara, Yes, Mike Yes, Vincent Yes, Robert Yes, Renee Yes, Kim Yes. All in favor

Motion passed

2. Motion made by Robert Veronesi to change the commission meetings time from 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Motion seconded by Kimberly Irzyk. Vote as follows: Sara Yes, Mike Yes, Robert Yes, Kim No, Renee, Abstain,

Vincent, Yes

Motion passed

#### Reports

1. Jim Blascak –(See attached)  
Jim went over Westfield United basketball, Spring summer brochure bids, Gift certificates, father/daughter dance, Papermill playground, and garment bid.

Motion made by Robert Veronesi to Adjourn motion seconded by Kimberly Irzyk

Motion passed

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

The next meeting is in February, Peg will see if the second Monday is available at 7:30 p.m. with the City Clerk's office for the year.

Documents:  
Jim Blascak-Report

Reviewed by Vincent Olinski Secretary of Commission

Summary of public comments on remote participation provided by:  
Peg Goralczyk, Parks and Recreation Department