



Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting  
February 10, 2020

RECEIVED

4:00 P.M.  
MAR 10 2020

WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

Commissioners Present: Jane DeBarbieri, Scott LaBombard, Kenneth Magarian  
Douglas Morash, Vincent Olinski, Michael Tirrell and Sara  
Unger

Commissioner absent: Robert Veronesi

Staff: Scott Hathaway, Deputy Supt., Jim Blascak, Program  
Coordinator and Peggy Goralczyk, Head Clerk

City Councilor: Cindy Harris

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 with Kenneth Magarian, Chair presiding asking if anyone was taping or recording the meeting to state their name and address.

Motion made by Michael Tirrell to accept the minutes of January 13, 2020 motion seconded by Scott LaBombard. All in favor.

Motion passed

Public Participation: Patty Brose, Dan Torres, Steve Fernandes, Nancy Stolpinski, Jason Adams and Matt Roman

City Council Communication: Cindy Harris is here to observe the meeting.

Business or Items for Discussion:

1. Kenneth Magarian welcomed Patty Brose, Westfield Athenaeum who is here tonight requesting a renewal permit for Park Square and Pavilion on Saturday, June 20, set up times 8:00 am- 3:00 pm for the kick off summer reading program. She went over details about 300 people expected. A performer will be there on stage and the service dogs will use shaded pavilion to cool off. They were there last year the program is set up for the children to read to the dogs. She explained dogs are therapy for children and it helps them read the words and what a great idea to read to a dog, they do not correct you they just wag their tails and love the children's company.
2. Kenneth Magarian asked if the service dogs were well trained and if they happen to go to the bathroom will the people running the event pick it up. Patty responded yes they are very good dogs and yes we will.

Motion made by Michael Tirrell to approve renewal permit for Patty Brose for the Westfield Athenaeum summer kickoff reading event at Park Square and Pavilion as presented, motion seconded by Jane DeBarbie. Vote as follows: Sara yes, Jane yes, Vincent yes, Michael yes, Douglas yes, Scott yes, Kenneth yes. All in favor.

Motion passed.

3. Kenneth welcomed Dan Torres who is the brother of Jose Torres and he is here tonight along with Steve Fernandes looking for approval of the commissioners to place a sign in memory of his brother at Whitney playground. He said that he recently attended an event in Springfield and someone brought up to his attention if there was a sign in memory of his brother. He showed pictures of two signs from the event in Springfield. (Attached) He explained the American Spanish Association and the city installed the Playground equipment. He took a ride down to Whitney Playground and noticed there was no signage and he is requesting if the department could install a small sign on the playscape and or a rock with brass plate. He did show them a tall wooden structure sign however would be happy with the stone and plate. He would like the wording to say: "A Place to Play This playground equipment is dedicated in memory of Jose Torres. Who loved this Community" (See Attached)
4. Sara Unger explained that this was brought up at the last meeting and we commissioners would like to keep all signage consistent like our other parks/playgrounds. She is recommending to Dan Torres the boulder-stone with brass plate.
5. Scott Hathaway responded that he could provide a stone and we can mount the plate on it and place it where you want it. He told Dan Torres when it is ready he can meet him at Whitney Playground and he can give him an idea of where he would like the stone placed.
6. Kenneth brought up that he does not believe there was an actual dedication to the playground equipment in memory of Jose Torres and possibly, we can get the newspaper to take pictures and educate the public regarding the playground equipment that was donated, installed and paid for by the American Spanish Association. A suggestion is possibly invite the neighbors by mail who live in that neighborhood to attend dedication.
7. Dan Torres responded that his family does not want a big celebration nor any social media they just want to keep it quiet and simple out of respect. The family would be very grateful if the city can install the signage requested and they will have their own family dedication together at the playground. In closing, Dan said that Whitney Playground brought many memories of Jose who played baseball at the ballfields in his youth with the neighborhood kids and as an adult; he loved the Red Sox team. His family is pleased with the baseball theme playscape and said Jose would be very proud of this honor. Kenneth Magarian thanked him for attending.

Motion made by Douglas Morash to except the signage of a small sign on equipment and rock-boulder with brass plate with the wording presented at the Whitney playground equipment in memory of Jose Torres presented tonight by his brother Dan Torres. Motion seconded by Sara Unger. Vote as follows: Sara yes, Jane yes, Vincent yes, Michael yes, Douglas yes, Scott yes, Kenneth yes. All in favor.

Motion passed.

8. Kenneth welcomed Nancy Stolpinski who has several permits for the pickle ball program at the municipal playground. The permits are from March 30 through November

30 times 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 pm Open play, Monday, Wednesday, Friday. Saturdays and Sunday's open play, Ladder League 5:00 pm- 9:00 pm Monday and Wednesday, She is requesting all the pickle ball courts and all the tennis courts and will work around the high school team sports. She wanted to know if line paint could be used. She handed out a sheet with more details of the pickle ball events. Four weekend tournaments dates all times 8:00 am - 3:00 pm May 23, May 24, July 25, July 26, Sept. 5, Sept. 6, Oct. 17, Oct. 18. Nancy is requesting to place a sign so that folks know when the pickle ball players are playing and at times out of town people will come and stay for longer than an hour and we just want to be able to play in our league and we believe the sign will help to educate the public and obviously when we are not using the courts it's open to the public. She says that most people that play tennis or racquetball seem to hang out on the courts longer than the average pickle ball player and we just want to have a small sign if we can explaining playing time. She is requesting if she could have a grill to cook hamburgers and hotdogs and provide food at the tournaments. She said last year that there were some concerns and she is requesting approval from the commission this time. She explained the group is not charging for food however may take donations if offered to cover food expenses.

9. Vincent Olinski responded that I do not believe you could have food served on the playgrounds you may have to contact the health department for a special permit He said he is not sure of the health department regulations.
10. Nancy Stolpinski went over the nets for the pickle ball courts and said she had a meeting with Scott Hathaway regarding the wind screens and the ones that were installed from storage from over 10 years ago are no longer available and the wind screens in the shed we could purchase 12" x 50" feet the cost is \$850 to finish off the rest of the area. We would like to add another 6' x 45' feet from top to bottom and then the parking lot side would be 50" feet to 6" feet curved and she is looking at getting black to match the ones that are currently there but they're not as high as the ones that were installed.
11. Nancy is requesting for a sign possibly a kiosk from the department that could hold, tournament events, store numbers that can be hooked to the fence. After the season, store it away. This will help with open play issues we had last year. Scott Hathaway said he has a one in storage she could use if she wants to stop by.
12. Vincent Olinski agrees that a small sign would make it courteous for everyone that wants to play pickle ball and not to take over the courts for a long period. A sign that says under one-hour of play and the rules and guidelines is a great idea. He has requested that Nancy have an open communication with Scott Hathaway regarding anything to do with the pickle ball courts and or windscreens.

Motion made by Michael Tirrell to except the kiosk sign, removable numbers to be placed on fence and to work with Scott Hathaway on the windscreens at the Municipal playground and approving all permits presented tonight for the pickle ball group. Motion seconded by Scott La Bombard, Vote as follows: Sara yes, Jane yes, Vincent yes, Michael yes, Douglas yes, Scott yes, Kenneth yes. All in favor.

Motion passed.

13. Kenneth Magarian welcomed Jason Adams who is here tonight for renewal of the Westfield girls lacrosse permit at Boardman Field from April 1 through June 15 times 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm Monday through Friday. Weekends 9:00 pm to 3:00 p.m. he said that they work around the field hockey program, there are a couple of fields that can be used.

Motion made by Jane DeBarbieri to approve the Westfield Girls Lacrosse permit at Boardman field as presented motion seconded by Scott LaBombard. Vote as follows: Sara yes, Jane yes, Vincent yes, Michael yes, Douglas yes, Scott yes, Kenneth yes. All in favor.

Motion passed.

14. Kenneth welcomed Scott LaBombard who is serving as President of Westfield Little League, stepping out a moment as a commissioner. He informed the commissioners that he went to go visit Sadie Knox playground and noticed the scoreboard was in pretty tough shape so they received a quote of \$4,500 for a 10 x 4 new sign that is operated by remote control, he's requesting approval from the commissioners and that he will be working with Westfield gas and electric and they will have a small little advertisement on the bottom of the sign. He showed the commissioners a picture from his phone. He brought up that the opening day for Westfield little league will be April 18 and he does not need approval from the commissioner for the carnival because they are looking at the south middle school instead. Conversation came up on the approval process of the scoreboard and Cindy Harris suggested contacting the Mayor or auditor and Peggy Goralczyk responded she would inform David Billips who is the department head and informs commissioners.

Motion made by Michael Tirrell to except the replacement new scoreboard at Sadie Knox playground, motion seconded by Doug Morash. Vote as follows: Sara yes, Jane yes, Vincent yes, Michael yes, Douglas yes, Scott abstain, Kenneth yes. All in favor.

Motion passed.

15. Kenneth Magarian handed out the brochure fees. Jim Blascak went over the fees from 2019 through 2020. Sara Unger was wondering why the adventure zone program was so low compared to other private groups in Westfield for childcare. Jim said that parents have to pay for field trips expenses and provide lunches for the children, and we try to be affordable.
16. Vincent Olinski mentioned that due to the increases of the staff salaries we had to increase our programs a little to cover expenses of the program. Jim responded that we make some profit on some of our programs for example T-ball but yes the commission voted to increase seasonal salaries and the programs fees are for positions, expenses and are paid through the revolving account.

Motion made by Sara Unger to approve the spring summer program rate increase as presented for 2020 motion seconded by Scott LaBombard. Vote as follows: Sara yes, Jane yes, Vincent yes, Michael yes, Douglas yes, Scott yes, Kenneth yes. All in favor.

Motion passed

17. The commission shall annually in the month of February organized but electing chairman secretary and pro tempore per section 11.15 organization and asked if anybody would be interested in serving as a chair person, pro-tempore and secretary for the commission. Commissioners made discussion. Michael Tirrell said that he would be interested in serving as chairperson and that he has spoken with Ken who has done a great job all these years. Vincent Olinski said yes he has done a terrific job and thanked him for his service to the commission and community. Kenneth Magarian said it has been several years, possibly over 25 however, he will step down and serve as Pro-Tempore and Doug Morash said he would be interested in serving as the secretary working with Peggy Goralczyk who takes the minutes. Vincent Olinski said he has served the past few years as secretary and it is time for someone new to take the position.

Motion made by Vincent Olinski to approve Michael Tirrell as Chairperson, Kenneth Magarian as Pro- Tempore and Douglas Morash as Secretary from February 2020 to January 2021. Vote as follows: Sara yes, Jane yes, Vincent yes, Michael yes, Douglas yes, Scott yes, Kenneth yes. All in favor.

Motion passed

18. Matt Roman is here to inform commissioners he is still working on finding a home for the cannon that is near the Tavern Restaurant. In addition, mentioned years ago, he also served on the commission and they use to vote by a paper ballet in a hat so votes would be held confidential. He will update commissioners on the cannon soon. Kenneth Magarian thanked him for the update.

Reports: Jim Blascak (Attached) He went over new programs, yoga, youth pickle ball, coed softball and corn hole league. He went over basketball; brochure going to graphic image, father daughter dance had 161 in attendance last Friday. He said Peggy Goralczyk opened the online web for the father daughter dance registrations for a week and it took off with 15 daughters and 13 dads. It was a test for the on line card system. The mother -son Luau only has four enrolled and that is not enough to pay for all the expenses.

Scott Hathaway went over Cross Street Playground and said that a neighbor has complained about the property lines and DCR was at a meeting and he has another meeting with David Bil-lips, Peter Miller and Law dept. We may have to move the fence to get the project started for the all abilities playground.

Schedule of bills - Attached,

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Scott LaBombard, Motion seconded by Douglas Morash. All in favor

The meeting ended at 8:06 pm

The next meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2020.

Reviewed and approved by Douglas Morash, Secretary of Commission

Summary of comments provided by Peggy Goralczyk, Head Clerk

Documents used:

Reports, Spring summer programs and permit use of area forms.

