

**PARK, BEACH and RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 4, 2019**

The Park, Beach and Recreation Commission held their Regular Meeting on Wednesday, December 4, 2019 in Conference Room C (Ansantawae Room). Chairman Worroll called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Commissioners Present:

D. Chairman Worroll
F. Shashinka
B. Bevan
K. Rowland
A. Fabian

Also Present:

Director P. Piscitelli
Ald. C. Gaynor

Absent: Ald. A. Sutton, Public Works Representative

Public Comment

None.

Consideration of the Minutes of the November 6, 2019 meeting

Commissioners' Shashinka and Rowland made and seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the November 6, 2019 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence

Director Piscitelli reported he received a letter today from the Alexander Jordan Jamieson Foundation thanking the Recreation Department and this Commission for the help in naming the park in his memory.

Director's Report

Director Piscitelli report the winter basketball league started on Monday. He also reported a decrease in the number of total youth teams. Addressing the decrease he stated it is due in part to enrollment in the 4th and 5th grades in Milford and also the increasing number of travel basketball teams in Milford. He stated although it is disappointing it does open up gym time for the department. Director Piscitelli noted an increase in the high school basketball league with the number of teams growing each year. Director Piscitelli also reported a new Cornhole league would be beginning this winter. He stated they have approximately 20 teams signed up. He also stated pickle ball and badminton leagues would begin shortly as well. Director Piscitelli also reported the paving projects at the various buildings are wrapping up.

Commissioner Rowland commented she was at the Margaret Egan Center today and stated the area is just a mess, with a lot of work to be done to complete that project.

Director Piscitelli stated the plan is to now move onto the West Shore Recreation building, with work to include a handicapped ramp in the front of the building. He stated top coats still needed to be done at Eisenhower and Foote Fields. He stated that work would be completed in the spring. He also stated there has been some work done at Walnut Beach where they have made that driveway wider; there is a plan to include a speed bump to protect pedestrians that are walking in that area. A brief discussion ensued.

Director Piscitelli reported he would be meeting with the mayor on Monday regarding the budget for the Park, Beach and Recreation Department. A brief discussion ensued.

Commissioners' Reports

1) Golf Course Commission – Chairman Worroll reported they have a tentative agreement with Tournament Turf Care that will go into effect in January 2020. He also reported they are getting ready to begin the budget process.

2) Bench Dedication Program – Commissioner Fabian reported 6 benches installed. She stated they are waiting for the installation of 1 bench (Haight bench) and that there are 5 benches on order. She commented there seems to be a request for a bench every week. Commissioner Fabian also reported there are several bench slat replacements on order.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

1) Director Piscitelli stated they received a request from the Milford Arts Council, Paige Miglio regarding the “Meet Me at the Bench program. He deferred to Ms. Miglio for an explanation of the proposal.

Ms. Miglio, 9 Highwood Road – stated she is the Director of the Milford Arts Council (MAC). She explained the MAC received a grant from the state for public art project. Ms. Miglio referenced the handout that explained the RFP: “Meet me at the Bench” DECD 2020 Project Grant scheduled to go out next week. She stated the idea behind the project is to expand the arts throughout the downtown reimagining park benches and replacing stoops with creative art. She continued with an explanation of the handout.

Director Piscitelli stated four (4) of the locations fall on areas that the recreation department has jurisdiction.

Chairman Worroll asked if the grant had been received and the amount,

Ms. Miglio stated yes, they requested \$15,000 and received \$12,000.

Commissioner Fabian asked about the existing slabs

Ms. Miglio stated there are existing slabs at the hospital, library and upper duck pond.

Chairman Worroll asked if any of those slabs were slated for recreation department benches.

Director Piscitelli replied no. Green, Jefferson Park (corner of Plymouth Street) and two spots on North Street duck pond.

Commissioner Fabian asked who would be putting the slabs down or if it would fall on the responsibility of the Public Works Department.

Ms. Miglio explained the process would not necessarily be slabs, but would be footings that would be put in. She stated she has received a verbal response from the city.

Commissioner Bevan asked about the spot behind the library. He asked if the area being proposed is where the road is being reengineered.

Ms. Miglio explained it is the area near the patio area of the children's department.

Commissioner Bevan asked about the matching monies.

Ms. Miglio stated they received \$12,000 from state and a \$9,000 match - could be in-kind i.e. corporations, businesses and \$2,500 in kind from the city.

Commissioner Bevan asked about the upkeep after 5 years.

Ms. Miglio explained installations usually last about 5 years and then go away or are replaced. She stated she is looking for sustainability for these pieces.

Commissioner Fabian asked if these would belong to the city after they are installed.

Director Piscitelli stated he would check with the Law Department. A brief discussion ensued.

Commissioner Shashinka asked if the artists would provide a draft of their proposed project.

Ms. Miglio directed her to the timeline in the project.

Commissioner Fabian asked what she anticipated for the number of responses.

Ms. Miglio stated she really did not know, noting these would not be your typical artists.

Commissioner Bevan asked if there would be some time of directional map for all of the sites.

Ms. Miglio explained there would be brochures in the kiosks near the MAC as well at the Chamber. Discussion resumed.

Commissioners' Fabian and Rowland made and seconded a motion to accept the proposed locations of the "Meet Me at the Bench" DECD 2020 Project Grant/Milford Arts Council as presented by Ms. Miglio at the December 1, 2019 meeting, with the stipulation that final proposals and locations are provided to the Recreation Director prior to installation.

Commissioner Bevan stated he would like to know the legality as to the ownership of the structures once they are installed. He also stated he would like to be a part of the committee.

Ms. Miglio stated she would welcome Commissioner Bevan to the committee and would add him to the appropriate distribution list.

Commissioners' Bevan and Shashinka made and seconded a motion to amend the motion to add the language *with the consensus of the city attorney as to who owns the structures once installed.* The amendment carried unanimously.

On the main motion, the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioners' Rowland and Fabian made and seconded a motion to add to the agenda under *New Business Approval of the 2020 Meeting Schedule.* Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioners' Rowland and Fabian and seconded a motion to approve the 2020 meeting schedule with one change as follows: change the January 1, 2020 meeting date to January 8, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Director Piscitelli recognized Ald. Ward Willis as Commission's newly appointed aldermanic liaison.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioners' Rowland and Fabian made and seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Kennedy
Recording Secretary