

**PEQUOT LAKES PARK COMMISSION
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2013
CITY HALL**

Members Present: Chair Malecha, Commissioners Bruch, Gibbons and Nagel.

Members Absent: Commissioner Ettesvold

Also Present: Dawn Bittner, Zoning Administrator; and Mike Loven, Public Works Supervisor.

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Malecha called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

2. Consider Agenda

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER NAGEL AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BRUCH TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

3. Park Commission Minutes

COMMISSIONER GIBBONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE 8/7/2013 PARK COMMISSION MINUTES, AS CORRECTED. COMMISSIONER BRUCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

4. Sibley Lake Park – Dog Park Update

Commissioner Gibbons reported that he had spoken with Sheridan Wilson and she had received two quotes for fencing. Miss Wilson plans to attend the next City Council meeting to provide the Council with information.

5. Splash Park Update

Commissioner Nagel stated he needs to obtain accurate cost information for a bathroom. The Splash Park cannot be located in front of Snap Fitness as there is not sufficient room; it could possibly be located further west. Research would need to be done for water and wastewater lines and right-of-way.

People have commented that a Splash Park would be helpful establishing Pequot as a destination. Princeton and Royalton both have them and Princeton stated it was the single best thing they had done. Water conservation is clearly important and can be accomplished with push buttons on timers. Royalton has push buttons on each segment rather than having water run all the time. Playground facilities could be placed adjacent to the Splash Park. Grants could help with the costs along with private donations.

Mr. Loven asked how the Park Board would like to proceed. It was determined it is necessary to obtain Council buy-in. Mr. Loven also reiterated the need to know where the right-of-way is located and to determine costs for water, wastewater, etc. Chair Malecha will contact Royalton regarding their water consumption.

It would be nice to have bathroom facilities on the north side of the park; 3-season facilities would be less expensive than having winterized bathrooms.

It was the consensus to have a Park Commission Member attend the upcoming Council meeting. Commissioner Bruch is concerned tax payers aren't ultimately responsible for the cost. The City would be responsible for maintenance. Mr. Loven pointed out that water is an Enterprise Fund and water customers would be paying the bill. The Park Commission will report to the City Council and get permission to move forward investigating this and receiving letters of intent for support.

The playground at Trailside North is under utilized; the equipment is for very young children. New equipment is very expensive, although it could help make Pequot Lakes a destination.

6. Other Business

Concert in the Park – Commissioner Nagel asked Mr. Loven if it would be possible to turn the benches so they face the Bank Shelter. Mr. Loven stated that can be done and that there are also additional benches that can be added.

Sibley Park Steps – Commissioner Nagel asked whether or not there is a plan to replace the existing steps. Mr. Loven stated that the cost for the replacement of the steps (\$90,000) is included in the five-year capital improvement plan. The cost to remove and bury the existing power lines is included in the 2014 budget. Mr. Loven pointed out that when the power lines are moved/removed; there will be no poles for lighting. If playground equipment is included with the Splash Park, is more equipment necessary at Sibley Park. Cost for maintenance of several parks with playground equipment is a concern.

Forest Management Plan – Mr. Loven presented a Forest Management Plan the City received from the Department of Natural Resources. This would be nice to include on the City website. **COMMISSIONER NAGEL MOVED TO HAVE THE FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN PLACED ON THE CITY WEBSITE. COMMISSIONER BRUCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 4 – 0.**

Skateboard Park – Commissioner Gibbons reported a teacher at the school is adamant about constructing a new skateboard park. He further stated that it could help make Pequot Lakes a destination. He was advised to have the teacher come forward with a plan.

Dog Park – Mr. Loven stated a Council Member had suggested placing the Dog Park behind the water plant. Bittner stated there would need to be fencing to protect the wellheads from accidental damage.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Bittner
Zoning Administrator