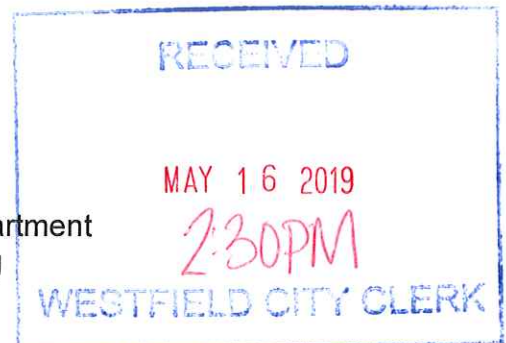




City of Westfield
Parks and Recreation Department
Commission Meeting
April 8, 2019



Commissioners Present: Scott LaBombard, Kenneth Magarian, Vincent Olinski, Sara Unger and Robert Veronesi

Commissioner absent: Michael Tirrell and Douglas Morash

Staff: Scott Hathaway, Dept. Supt. and Peggy Goralczyk, Head Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 with Kenneth Magarian presiding

Motion made by Scott LaBombard to accept the minutes of March 11, 2019 motion seconded by Robert Veronesi. All in favor.

Motion passed

Public Participation

1. Patrick Kennedy, Donald Moorehouse, Christopher Thompson, Michael Farrelly, Harry Rock, George Hart, Don Gibson, Paul Gour, Robert Piper, Jeff Cichonski, Lisa Bonome and Robert Pac

City Council Communications- None

New Business or Items for Discussion:

1. Kenneth Magarian welcomed Patrick Kennedy WHS Music Director who is here tonight requesting for a renewal for the 3rd annual Jazz Festival at Park Square and Pavilion on Sunday, May 5. He said times are 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. This would include grades 4 through college. Sara Unger asked how many people does he expect and Patrick responded about a 100. Scott Hathaway informed him they are working on the electrical outlets with gas and electric due for the cake and hope additional electricity will be in place. Harry Rock responded he has also contacted gas and electric as well.

Motion made by Vincent Olinski, Motion seconded by Sara Unger to approve the Jazz festival permit as presented May 5. Vote as follows: Sara yes, Ken Yes, Vincent yes, Robert yes, Scott yes. All in favor

Motion passed

2. Kenneth welcomed Donald Moorehouse and Christopher Thompson from Starr Fires Baseball LLC. Donald went over the league information a college baseball league and the grand opening is May 31 and said the league ends around August 1st. He said when they approached the idea of having the league in Westfield they worked around Babe Ruth and coordinating with Dan Welch. They support us and we will support them and work with the community and are very excited to start their season.

3. Scott LaBombard responded that he is looking forward to the games and is pleased that Starfires representatives here tonight could work out the scheduling with Babe Ruth and to contact him by email if they need anything. Kenneth said this is exciting for Westfield and thanked them for attending tonight.
4. Michael Farrelly is here tonight with a follow up of art work designs for the skatepark. He presented a picture frame of his artwork and drawings and talked about his goals to beautify the skatepark. Sara Unger asked if he reached out to art students at the high school or Westfield Technical academy to help him with the project. He responded he has not seen anyone over the winter and will reach out to the schools. Michael said at the last meeting the department said they could help with paint supplies.
5. Scott Hathaway said he could have one of the guys go to Home Depot and meet you there to get paint supplies.
6. Vincent Olinski asked Michael if somebody vandalizes the skate park would you be able to repaint your designs all over again. Michael said just give him a call and he can correct it by repainting the design.
7. Robert Veronesi responded the artwork is absolutely beautiful and he loves the birds you did a really great job coming up with the designs tonight. His one request was if he could incorporate the Parks and Recreation logo into your skate park designs. Michael responded yes he could. (Peg Goralczyk said that she would email him the city logo).
8. Sara Unger asked Michael Farrelly if he could possibly show where on the skate park by squares of where his designs would be placed in the location of the skatepark and report back to the commission.

Motion made by Sara Unger to approve Michael Farrelly approved art project and support the funding to the help assist in expenses of spray paint cans and art supplies up to \$200 -\$300 or look into a reimbursement. Motion seconded by Robert Veronesi. Vote as follows: Sara yes, Ken Yes, Vincent yes, Robert yes, Scott yes. All in favor
Motion passed

9. Kenneth Magarian welcomed Harry Rock the 350 representative and he is here tonight to give an update of the 350 events he said about 160 people showed up on the first night and they're going to have lectures of history in all the schools throughout the city they have contacted our third fourth graders and he provided a birthday post card with up-to-date celebrations. He went over the city's birthday Sunday, May 19 and said that is Westfield's big birthday and everybody's invited to attend. He's working on the Westfield Technical Academy culinary arts to provide cake and he will receive ice cream from the Hood's company. He is also here tonight to request to keep the cake a little longer at Parks Square, the

original plan was to remove the cake in June. He's requesting that the cake remain in place until after Labor Day weekend he has heard many comments from the community and they would like to keep the cake there as long as they can and it would be a nice visual for all to experience. He said he has spoken to David Billips as well.

10. Kenneth Magarian and commissioners thanked Harry Rock for his presentation tonight and said he's doing a wonderful job organizing the event.
11. Robert Piper is here tonight requesting a renewal to use Woronoco soccer fields for the Westfield high school boys' soccer team he will coordinate with FC soccer and the dates are June 6 through August 3.

Motion made by Vincent Olinski, Motion seconded by Robert Veronesi to approve the Woronoco soccer fields permit presented tonight. Vote as follows: Sara yes, Ken Yes, Vincent yes, Robert yes, Scott yes. All in favor

Motion passed

11. Robert Pac from Westfield Columbia Rail Trail is here tonight with an update on the participation of the bike trail and to invite commissioners to attend a informational meeting Tuesday, April 16 on the rail trail goals. He handed out a flyer and went over that the Mayors bike ride event coming up on Monday, May 13 at 5:30 p.m. He said we will celebrate by riding the bikes over the river bridge everyone is welcome to participate in this program with the Mayor and then offer a ribbon cutting ceremony. Robert said 209 users were listed in the study that was done on Sunday, April 7 of how many people were on the rail trail. He also said that there is a stump in the middle picture that either a tree was pushed over or vandalized or the wind knocked it down he believes it was vandalized because it is the second time this has happened to this tree planting area. He also thanked Scott Hathaway and his staff for removing a big tree that had fallen over onto the bike path during the High winds. Kenneth Magarian thanked Robert Pac for keeping the commission informed and for the study that he presented tonight.
12. Dan Gibson and Paul Gore are here tonight representing Westfield Little League at the request of Sarah Unger and Scott LaBombard regarding the concerns at Sadie Knox playground. He said they will install a higher fence with black fabric for privacy so that no one will be able to put their fingers through and bother the neighbor and his family with his dog and goat. Hastie Fence crew will install the fence this weekend he is requesting that Scott Hathaway provide two or three telephone poles to connect the fence to it. He asked Scott if he could trim some trees that are leaning over the neighbor's fence and said the neighbor has taken down a couple trees however branches are leaning over onto the playground. Scott said will take care of his requests with his staff. Dan Gibson is also asking if we could repaint the lines in the parking lot so that they are visible.

13. Kenneth Magarian was very pleased with Westfield Little League for working with the commission and with a neighbor in a positive way. He asked him if he's going to have a volunteer at all the games and practices. Don Gibson responded these are only volunteers from families they have no authority to tell people that they can't park where they are not supposed to park. They are coordinating with the parents to let them know the guidelines to watch their children and to be neighbor friendly. They will also contact out of town people that will be playing games at Sadie Knox playground of the parking policies and guidelines. He said that they will hire police officers when they have tournaments.
14. Robert Veronesi went over the history of Sadie Knox playground because he grew up in that neighborhood when he was younger the house was there before the ball park he believes the ball park should have been geared toward little children that don't hit the balls over the fence. Or the park could've been designed better back then. He was reading over the notes with the neighbors concern and he does not blame the neighbor for everything he has to put up with and he is just very happy that we are working out a positive solution for everyone involved. Commissioners agreed.
15. Vincent Olinski went over a few of the concerns brought up at the informational meeting asking if the lights are shining at the correct angle and not at the homes. Do the timers work properly and are they shut off by 10:30 p.m. and can you turn the music down so it's not so loud. Don Gibson responded they checked the lights and they are at the correct angles and the lights are shut off by 10:00 p.m. they can shut it off from an app by their phone and he will turn the music down by the concession stand. Vincent thanked them.
16. Scott Labombard asked if Westfield Little League representatives could contact all the coaches out of town to let them know the guidelines. Don Gibson said they have contacted all the parents to watch their children at all times. Paul Gourd responded they have a district meeting coming up and we will also communicate with them of the guidelines that we expect from them when they attend the game. Kenneth Magarian responded a face to face communication sometimes works better than by email.
17. Sara Unger and Scott Labombard thanked them for attending the meeting tonight and finding a solution by providing a higher fence and working out the concerns of the neighbors. Commissioners thanked him as well.
18. Scott Hathaway received a request to place a 6 foot banner on the stage or pavilion at Park Square listing the three concert dates from Tom Sawyer. Sara Unger responded we have turned away other groups that requested banners at Park Square and they were not approved. If he wants to bring the banner each night of the concert he can but he needs to remove it after the concert is over. We will not give him permission to leave the banner up for advertising.

19. Scott Hathaway also went over vandalism of tape that was left at the Municipal tennis courts from the pickle ball players. He said the tape was left there all winter and no one asked for permission to place the tape down in the beginning of the season. He said our tennis instructor couldn't teach or play tennis because the kids were sticking and sliding all over the courts. He then contacted Nancy Stolpinski about the concern and she never returned his phone call. Kenneth Magarian said he will make sure that she calls him as he ran into her a few days ago and she said that it was their mistake they should've took up the tape after the event was over. She admitted they used the wrong type of tape for the courts.
20. Scott went over his plans for Whitney playground and laser grading invasive plants cut back the brush to keep the homeless people and drug dealers out of the woods. Robert Veronesi thanked Scott he said he has been asking for this request for the past 40 years and he's looking forward to the project to start.
21. Vincent Olinski asked Scott if he contacted the flood control commission because they maintain part of the property. He is suggesting he contact them first.
22. Scott Hathaway informed the commissioners Barbara Trant receives a grant each year is looking to donate \$3,000 (I thought Scott said \$5,000?) to the department. Scott is suggesting that we use the money to ~~for~~ beautify the bridges with flowers and plants. He is looking to add it to the bridge area near the big Y bike trail.
23. Scott Hathaway is suggesting that we pave a small section at municipal playground where the ruts are it's all washed out and that will be better for the area for parking and drainage.
24. Scott Hathaway also brought up the farm animal ordinance he checked with the health department about goats and apparently you have to have 5 acres of land to have a goat and have to be in a rural area. He is just letting commissioners know.
25. Robert Veronesi responded he supports the neighbor with his goat that lives near Sadie Knox playground and he believes he is a nice guy just bringing his concerns forward and who knows how long this is been going on and is grateful that we are now working to help resolve his issues along with the other neighbors. He said we certainly don't want to take his goat that is not the issue here at all. The Commissioners agreed.
26. Scott went over the mother son Luna event, said the fit start program numbers increased because Dacia the instructor changed the name from "Boot Camp" to "Fit Smart". He said he is coordinating to have the water turned on for the season and spring staff have been hired.

27. Scott informed commissioners he met with the Mayor regarding seasonal staff salaries from the sub-committee members and said he approved them.
28. Kenneth Magarian responded we will review each year and next year a new Mayor coming on board.

Reports:

1. Jim Blascak, Program Coordinator (Attached)

Motion made by Sara Unger to adjourn, motion seconded by Robert Veronesi

All in favor

Motion passed

The meeting ended 8:218 pm

The next meeting is May 13, 2019

Documents:

Schedule of bills

Permits

Columbia Rail Trail study

350 birthday events postcard

Reports

Reviewed and approved by Vincent Olinski, Secretary of Commission

Summary of comments provided by Peg Goralczyk, Head Clerk