

**DRAFT MINUTES  
 PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
 Tuesday, June 11, 2024 @ 6:00 PM  
 Charlestown Town Hall, Town Council Chambers  
 4540 South County Trail, Charlestown, RI 02813**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was CALLED TO ORDER by Chairman Wood at 6:00 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Leonard Wood	Chair	Present	
Lauren Classey	Commissioner	Present	
Jill Marie Fonnemann	Commissioner	Present	
Jodi Frank	Commissioner	Present	
Kerry Gallup	Commissioner	Absent	
Frank Glista	Commissioner	Present	
Christine Holden	Commissioner	Absent	
Julie Melvin	Commissioner	Absent	
Timothy Quillen	Commissioner	Present	
Gary T. Tedeschi	Vice-Chair	Present	
Lynn Varadian	Commissioner	Present	

Also present: Vicky Hilton, Parks & Recreation Director and Susan Cooper, Town Council Liaison

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Faith Labossiere complimented the Parks and Recreation Department for providing a handicap access walkway on both beaches. It’s a beautiful way to get people who can’t get to the beach, a way to at least see the water.

**4. COMMISSION COMMENTS**

Commissioner Quillen commented on how nice it is to see families enjoying the park together looking for the Trolls. Ninigret Park is enjoyed by so many different groups of people. The park is big, and we should be able to enjoy it with all kinds of activities.

**5. MINUTES APPROVAL**

**Discussion and/or potential action and/or vote(s) concerning:**

**A. Parks & Recreation Meeting Minutes for May 28, 2024.**

**VOTE**

A motion was made by Commissioner Tedeschi, seconded by Commissioner Varadian to approve the minutes of May 28, 2024. The motion was unanimously approved with seven (7) in favor, one (1) abstained and three (3) absent.

**Result: Unanimous**  
**Mover: Tedeschi**  
**Secunder: Varadian**  
**Ayes: Wood, Glista, Varadian, Classey, Tedeschi, Frank, Quillen**  
**Abstain: Fonnemann**  
**Absent: Melvin, Holden, Gallup**

**6. REPORTS- (NO VOTE NEEDED)**

**A. Director’s Report June 2024 – No Report**

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**Discussion and/or potential action and/or vote (s) concerning:**

**A. Discussion and Potential Action – Friends of Ninigret Park**

Commissioner Quillen stated that because there are so many people in Ninigret Park these days, we should be finding ways to raise some money. QR codes throughout the park would allow people to make donations.

Director Hilton stated that she is investigating the QR codes. The donations would go into the Ninigret Park Fund.

**8. APPLICATIONS**

**Discussion and/or potential action and/or vote (s) concerning:**

Discussion and Potential Action Regarding the Approval of the Following Events at Ninigret Park, including recommendation to the Town Council to Waive §108-4 and §108-5 of the Charlestown Code of Ordinances, Subject to Review of Contracts by the Town Solicitor, receipt of All Applicable Paperwork and Insurance and that All Event Details Are Satisfactorily Met by the Parks and Recreation Director

- A. Event: Celebration of Life**
- Dates: Sunday, July 7, 2024**
- Camping: No**
- Insurance: \$1 Million**
- Fee: \$0**

**VOTE**

A motion was made by Chairman Wood, seconded by Commissioner Tedeschi to approve the application, as well as waiving the \$50 fee and the Charlestown Code of Ordinances 108-4 & 108-5. The motion was unanimously approved with eight (8) in favor and three (3) absent.

**Result: Unanimous**  
**Mover: Wood**  
**Secunder: Tedeschi**  
**Ayes: Wood, Glista, Tedeschi, Varadian, Classey, Frank, Fonnemann, Quillen**  
**Absent: Melvin, Holden, Gallup**

**NOTE: The details will be worked out with Mike Paliotta, Charlestown Police Chief, and the Charlestown Police Department**

## **9. OLD BUSINESS**

**Discussion and/or potential action and/or vote (s) concerning:**

### **VOTE**

A motion was made by Chairman Wood, seconded by Commissioner Glista, to move item E, Atlantis Rising Application discussion, with item A, Disc golf update. The motion was unanimously approved with eight (8) in favor and three (3) absent

**Result: Unanimous**

**Mover: Wood**

**Secunder: Tedeschi**

**Ayes: Wood, Glista, Tedeschi, Varadian, Classey, Frank, Fonnemann, Quillen**

**Absent: Melvin, Holden, Gallup**

## **E. Atlantis Rising Application discussion.**

### **VOTE**

A motion was made by Chairman Wood, seconded by Commissioner Tedeschi, to amend the Atlantis Rising Event Application, time adjustment previously adopted (Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, Tuesday, May 28, 2024) from shut down at 7:15pm and lights out at 8:00pm, amending both to 6:15pm. The motion was unanimously approved with eight (8) in favor and three (3) absent.

**Result: Unanimous**

**Mover: Wood**

**Secunder: Tedeschi**

**Ayes: Wood, Glista, Tedeschi, Varadian, Classey, Frank, Fonnemann, Quillen**

**Absent: Melvin, Holden, Gallup**

Chairman Wood recapped the April 23, 2024, Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting where there was a verbal agreement between Loiuise Bishop, South County Tourism, Fish and Wildlife, and the commission to shut down the event by 6:00pm. A motion was made at that meeting for South County Tourism to continue the application and resubmit it. At the May 28, 2024, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, the application came back with few changes and the end of the event at 8:00pm. A motion was made to approve the application pending the appropriate event fee and the time adjustment, shut down at 7:15pm and lights out at 8:00pm. As stated in the motion, The event end time has been amended and approved to 6:15pm.

Concerns and questions by interested parties were addressed by the Commission and South County Tourism.

**VOTE**

A motion was made by Commissioner Quillen, seconded by Commissioner Varadian, to approve the fee of \$9,000.00 for the Atlantis Rising Event. The motion was unanimously approved with eight (8) in favor and three (3) absent

**Result: Unanimous**

**Mover: Quillen**

**Secunder: Varadian**

**Ayes: Wood, Glista, Tedeschi, Varadian, Classey, Frank, Fonnemann, Quillen**

**Absent: Melvin, Holden, Gallup**

**B. Ninigret Park Application and Administrative fee update.**

Nothing new.

**C. Arts and Crafts Show, July 20, 2024, update. (Funding and Volunteers)**

Commissioner Classey is looking for volunteers. Working on logistics for vendors.

**D. Dog adoption/parade/fashion show update.**

Commissioner Fonnemann stated that she is still working on the event. Still no definite date yet. Looking for vendors. Animal shelters are interested in attending the event.

**A. Disc golf update.**

Commissioner Tedeschi stated that he is still working on bids for disc baskets. An area has been cleared for storage unit.

**F. Tennis backboard update.**

Commissioner Tedeschi is getting estimates for backboard. An engineer will be needed for safety.

Faith Labossiere did a site walk and believes the backboard should be at least 37x40 feet. The height should be as high as the fence.

Commissioner Quillen suggested installing a year- round heated restroom for the park and using the walls for the backboard. An agenda item for next month's meeting.

**G. Goatscaping update.**

Director Hilton is still working on gathering information.

**H. Sculpture Trail update.**

Director Hilton is still working on it.

**10. DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

Director Hilton stated that tonight's discussion went well, and she appreciates the input from the commission.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**VOTE**

A motion was made by Commissioner Frank, seconded by Commissioner Varadian, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 7:17pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jill Cuddy

DRAFT