

MINUTES
NINIGRET PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING
Charlestown Town Hall, Annex Room
4540 South County Trail, Charlestown, RI 02813
October 26, 2023, at 2:00pm

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Quillen at 2:00pm.

2. ROLLCALL

Chairman Tim Quillen, Commissioner Jodi Frank, Commissioner Frank Glista, Commissioner Julie Melvin, and Commissioner Leonard Wood. Also present at the meeting was Director of Parks and Recreation, Vicky Hilton.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Wood and seconded by Commissioner Glista to approve the October 17, 2023, meeting minutes. The vote was unanimous.

4. DISCUSSION OF MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Chairman Quillen lists and discusses his priorities for the Master Plan:

- Fee structure is a top priority
- Additional signage
- Moving large event area to proposed event area so the community can use the rest of the park.
- More athletic fields/courts
- Recreation Center
- Clean-up Ninigret Pond (water quality)
- Move Parks and Recreation Department to the park
- Year-round bathrooms

Cons...

- Leave the Crit where it is.
- Leave Frosty Drew alone.
- Leave the Playground alone. Don't need anymore.
- No more camping other than what we already allow.

Commissioner Melvin lists and discusses her priorities for the Master Plan:

- Clean Ninigret Pond sooner than later.
- Signage needs to be cleaned up.
- Lighting is fine. The park doesn't need any more lighting.

Commissioner Frank lists and discusses her priorities for the Master Plan:

- Keep Crit where it is.
- Agrees with Chairman Quillen's assessment of priorities.
- Would like to see a survey of the younger members of the community to get a feel for what they would like to have in the park.

Director Hilton lists and discusses her priorities for the Master Plan:

- Change the stop sign at the main entrance. Needs to look better.
- Pickleball courts should be added but where should they go?
- Splash pad/playground near the exercise area.
- Recreation center for offices at the park.
- Horse barn is falling apart and in need of repair.

Commissioner Glista lists and discusses his priorities for the Master Plan:

- Main Entrance: Road needs to be changed to allow for improved traffic flow.
- Tear-drop landscaped entrance idea.
- Bike path next to entrance.
- Parks and Recreation building.
- Remove existing Gate House.
- Pickleball courts near basketball courts or within old BMX track area.
- Splash Pad in the old BMX area.
- Four season Bathrooms.
- Remove existing horse barn and old electrical panels. Build a new storage barn for Parks and Recreation equipment.
- Landscaping around existing entrance sign, clear undergrowth at all standalone trees, remove dead trees and re-plant along our roadways.

Commissioner Wood lists and discusses his priorities for the Master Plan:

- Event Area/ performance area. Clear the proposed area to open it up. Pull out invasive shrubs and plants. Lots of areas to use.
- Plant some trees to build a buffer.
- Lighting could be reflectors instead of traditional lights.
- Recreation Center and Field House/Information Center
- Full-time Maintenance Custodian reporting to Parks and Recreation.
- Splash Pad

Commissioner Glista stated that clearing an area for many events makes sense but clearing the area for just one event doesn't seem like the best idea.

Commissioner Melvin stated that down the road, maybe more events will come to the park. Start slow and add events a little at a time.

Director Hilton also stated that athletic fields are still an option.

5. ADJOURNEMENT

A motion by Chairman Quillen, seconded by Commissioner Melvin was made to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. The vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 2:38pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jill Cuddy