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OCT 17 2023

WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
City Hall -Room 315 at 6:30 p.m.
September 11, 2023

Commissioners Present: Jane DeBarbieri, Scott LaBombard, Peter Lurgio, Kenneth Magarian, Michael Tirrell and Sara Unger

Commissioners Absent: Vincent Olinski and Douglas Morash

Scott LaBombard welcomed everyone and asked for a moment of silence and prayer for those killed in the 911 or the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks especially the Westfield residents who lost their lives that day twenty-two (22) years ago.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm with Scott LaBombard, Chair presiding asking if anyone was here tonight that was not listed on the agenda. He also explained the three-minute public participation speaking time and 15 minutes maximum time.

Approval of August 14, 2023 minutes made by Kenneth Magarian and seconded by Peter Lurgio. The following roll call vote was taken: Jane DeBarbieri, yes, Kenneth Magarian yes, Scott LaBombard yes, Peter Lurgio yes, Sara Unger yes, Michael Tirrell yes. (6 yes)
Motion passed

Public Participation: Nancy Stolpinski, Dena Polverari, Bernie Puza, Lynn Barszcz, and Chris Dorr.

1. Scott LaBombard welcomed Nancy Stolpinski who stated that they wanted to review last month's meeting regarding the courts at Municipal and asked about the ADA compliance guidelines. She explained the pickleball group provided research from Denise Roy (See letter) Nancy explained the women in the wheelchair plays pickleball and she chose to play in Westfield because the pathways and parking are open and have accessible restrooms. (The letter was in support of eight courts) Nancy Stolpinski went over the sizes for the ADA charts presented and mentioned the restroom areas have gravel and grass areas and are not a good surface for people in wheelchairs. (Kenneth Magarian and Scott LaBombard responded we had to be ADA-compliant when Municipal restrooms were built)
2. Dena Polverari handed out flyers and information regarding local pickleball courts that were ADA-compliant but not USAP standard courts. She also went over the sizes. What she is requesting is that the ADA guidelines route must connect to the court as width and changes in the level of surface material and must directly connect both sides of the court. Players must not be required to traverse through another court to get to either side of the court and accessible routes must be a minimum of 36 inches. Kenneth Magarian read out the sizes again off the letter presented to them.
3. Nancy Stolpinski recommended that the courts be 64 x 34 however the standard size is 60 x 30. On the original plans, we asked for six courts when they were first built but now we need more due to the growth of pickleball players in Westfield and request 8 courts.
4. Lynn Barszcz explained from the US Open pickleball championship level she handed out an email that stated the surface and size of the courts for wheelchair players is the same as all players.

Business or Items for Discussion:

1. Lynn Barszcz-Westfield Pickleball permit for tournament Oct. 7 and Oct. 9 at 1:00 p.m. She stated that they will hold off this year due to the construction and planning of a tournament and will re-visit next year. The commission took a vote in case they changed their mind or if construction would be completed by then.

Approval of permit presented made by Kenneth Magarian and seconded by Peter Lurgio pending construction of Municipal Playground projects.

The following roll call vote was taken: Jane DeBarbieri, yes, Kenneth Magarian yes, Scott LaBombard yes, Peter Lurgio yes, Sara Unger yes, Michael Tirrell yes. (6 yes)

Motion passed.

2. Scott LaBombard brought up on the agenda that due to Scott Hathaway being on vacation the Little River Playground property lines with Fire Dept. and ownership will be listed on the October agenda.
3. Scott LaBombard informed the commission and pickleball group that the Hampton Ponds Playground will have pickleball courts on the North side of the city as construction will start soon through a Community Development grant.
4. Scott LaBombard updated commissioners on the Municipal improvements and the bid came under for the Municipal improvements so hopefully the Mayor can find more money as there was a grant for funding the project. He also mentioned that there will be 8 dedicated pickleball courts in the works with less funding for the tennis courts on the Franklin Street side. He explained to the pickleball group according to Engineering everything is in ADA compliance.
5. Michael Tirrell explained that the city has to follow all ADA guidelines and laws with the city and went over how some years back some businesses went out of business due to elevator expenses or not being ADA-compliant. Commissioners agreed.

Reports: Scott Hathaway is on vacation and Scott LaBombard read Jim Blascak's program reports (Attached)

Motion to adjourn by Michael Tirrell and seconded by Peter Lurgio

The following roll call vote was taken: Jane DeBarbieri, yes, Kenneth Magarian yes, Scott LaBombard yes, Peter Lurgio yes, Sara Unger yes, Michael Tirrell yes. (6 yes)

Motion passed

The meeting ended at 7:10 pm

The next meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2023

Documents used:

Report

Schedules

Permit

Pickleball letters and documents

Review and approved minutes by Douglas Morash, Secretary of the Commission

DM/pg