

Ball Pond Advisory Committee

MINUTES

August 11, 2009

7:00 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, August 11, 2009 in the Town Hall Conference Room.

Cynthia Stevens (Chair) called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. George Buck, Helen Gallagher, Walter Hope (entered at 7:02) and Terry Lent were also present. Brian Bosley was not in attendance. Invited guests included Derrick Shuhart (Didona Associates – Landscape Architects), Steve Merullo (Director of Parks & Recreation and Buildings & Grounds for the Town), and Bill O’Keeffe (Town Parks & Recreation Commission) attended the first part of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

Terry Lent made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2009 regular meeting. Helen Gallagher seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0-0 (Motion Approved)

Helen Gallagher made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2009 special meeting. Terry Lent seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0-0 (Motion Approved)

General Correspondence: Cynthia Stevens reported on bills paid recently and those to be paid.

Public Comment: None

Old Business:

- Ball Pond Town Park
 - Cynthia Stevens introduced Derrick Shuhart from Didona Associates. She explained that the Friends of Ball Pond engaged Didona Associates to work on this project as a contribution to the Town.
 - Derrick Shuhart presented the conceptual plan for the Ball Pond Town Park, the primary goals of the project being to slow down erosion into the lake and to make better use of the shoreline space in an organized, visually-pleasing way.
 - Perennial, native shrubs will be planted along the fence on Ball Pond Road.
 - A row of large stones/boulders will demarcate a terrace area which will be filled in with sand from the lower beach. This space will be able hold benches, a picnic table, etc. and the boulders will also provide natural seating facing the water.
 - There will be two means of accessing the water (one for fishing; one for boating) separated by an area of native plantings.
 - Derrick Shuhart fielded questions asked by Committee members and guests.
 - *How much maintenance will the vegetation require?* Once it is established, up-keep should be minimal since native plantings will be used.
 - *Will topsoil have to be brought in?* Yes, to fill in the terrace area. Erosion into the lake will be minimized by boulder/rock wall and plantings.
 - *What will the entrance way be covered with?* Item 4 crushed stone will probably be used to minimize erosion.
 - *What will the watering requirements be?* Initially (first couple of weeks), the plantings will need consistent watering. Steve Merullo suggested contacting the BP Fire Department. Cynthia Stevens will do that and/or look into volunteers to help with watering.

- *How will we handle erosion?* Bill O’Keeffe commented on the need for a curtain drain.
- *Would a small dock extending into the water for fishing be possible in the future?* (Steve Merullo answered). No. This would be a liability for the Town.
- *How will boat storage be handled?* Brainstorming by the group ensued. Possible ideas included: two racks for different size boats made by Boy Scouts, small fee for rack use with a sticker distributed by lottery, lake-side sign and notice in Citizen News regarding moving boats during construction of the Park and about the new management system (including boats that are unregistered and/or left out of racks will be removed).
- Next steps were discussed.
 - Steve Merullo will work on the Inland/Wetlands application and will get it on their September agenda. He and Bill O’Keeffe will also bring the plans to the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting next Monday.
 - Steve Merullo will research the ownership/need for the chain link fence.
 - Beginning the project in this planting season (September, early October) may be unfeasible.
 - Discussion ensued about permits needed, etc. Derrick Shuhart will send Steve Merullo a recent A2 survey. Zoning will probably not need to be consulted since no major changes will be made. The size of the State easement will have to be clarified.
 - Discussion ensued about cost.
 - Derrick Shuhart presented a non-binding “Opinion of Cost” spreadsheet.
 - Steve Merullo said that the Town would probably be able to do a lot of the labor with guidance from Didona Associates.
 - Walter Hope has a connection who might be able to provide plantings at-cost.
 - Derrick Shuhart suggested that benches/furniture be obtained through donations. Cynthia Stevens explained that a memorial program in which people make donations exists through the Friends of Ball Pond at the Hahlawah Preserve.
- Other business
 - Cynthia Stevens updated the Committee on the weed situation. Milfoil is almost gone. Coontail has emerged along with some other new species. There are still many pink water lilies. It’s unclear how they spread so quickly and vastly recently after having remained in pretty much the same spot for many years prior. A large rock was rolled into the north end of the lake by the DOT doing roadwork.
 - Discussion ensued about the clarity of the water. All agree that it looks great this year.

New Business: None

Adjournment:

- The next regular meeting of the Ball Pond Advisory Committee will be on Tuesday, September 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room.
- George Buck made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m.; Terry Lent seconded the motion.

Vote: 5-0-0 (Motion Approved)

Respectfully Submitted,

Darlene Anderson-Alexander
Recording Secretary