

Somers Parks & Recreation Board

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Kevin Westerman
Chairman



MEETING MINUTES **December 11, 2025**

Chairman Westerman opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

The members present were: Stephen Krug; Chris McCormack; John Papalia; Don Penzine; Janelle Robbins; Kevin Westerman; and John Zattola.

Jim Boniello was absent.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Steve Ralston was also present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Penzine to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2025, meeting as submitted. Mrs. Robbins seconded the motion. All were in favor.

MR. RALSTON'S REPORT

There were no comments or questions about Mr. Ralston's report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resignation

Michele Sanz has resigned from the Board as she is relocating. Her contributions to the Board were invaluable and she will be missed. If anyone knows of someone who might be interested in this Board position, they should contact the Supervisor's office.

2026 Program Fees Review

Mr. Ralston shared a copy of the proposed program fees for 2026 that will be submitted to the Town Board for approval. They were reviewed and discussed.

2026 Day Camp

On December 1st, Mr. Ralston met with Somers Central School District representatives to discuss a rainy-day site for 2026. The District has many projects that will take place after school ends in June and providing a rainy-day site will be challenging. Primrose Elementary School may be an option and they will let Mr. Ralston know by the end of the year. If there is not a rainy-day site, it will impact enrollment as many parents use Day Camp as childcare and need to have a reliable alternative for rainy days.

2026 Projects

There are some amenity type projects that will happen in 2026 and Mr. Ralston is grateful that the Town Board has agreed to fund them.

2026 Goals for the Board

All agreed that it would be beneficial to have a discussion with the Town Board regarding the Board's expectations and goals for 2026 and how the Parks and Recreation Board can have a positive impact on the Town. A good way to effectively create productive synergy between the Town Board and the Parks and Recreation Board would be to hold joint working sessions. The Parks and Recreation Board will request such meetings.

OLD BUSINESS:

2026 Proposed Budget Update

No significant changes have been made to the 2026 proposed budget that Mr. Ralston submitted for the Parks and Recreation Department. At the budget hearing in October, Mr. Westerman advocated for an increase for Mr. Ralston as his department has been given a continual increase in responsibilities. The final budget should be released soon.

Reis Park Improvements and Expansion Update

A request was made to LANDTEK to plan an improvement and expansion project for Reis Park in phases, with a cost estimate per phase that includes reimagining the existing facilities with building pickle ball courts and updating the lighting as priorities. It has not yet been received.

MR. RALSTON'S COMMENTS

Mr. Ralston had no additional comments.

BOARD MEMBER'S COMMENTS

There were no Board member comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. The Board will meet next on January 28th at 6:30 p.m. in the Recreation Center in Van Tassell Park.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Schirmer, Secretary
Parks and Recreation Board

cc: Parks and Recreation Board
Superintendent of Parks and Recreation
Town Board

Town Clerk