

**Bristol Parks & Recreation  
Ellingwood Information Center  
September 28, 2021**

*Commissioners present: Clyde Pendleton, Sandra Lane, Laurie Mahan*

*Also present: Lara Decker, Pat Porter, Jane Bjerklie-Barry, Todd Richards, Mary Gauntt*

*Meeting called to order at 6:04 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.*

**Minutes:**

Laurie made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, Sandra seconded, and motion carried.

**LHP Incident:**

Last week at Lighthouse Park, a gentlemen fell on the rocks and hit his head. The Park staff on duty (Mary, Lakotah and Craig) did an outstanding job following Bloodborne Pathogen procedures for cleaning up the blood. They worked together as a team and followed protocol from the safety training. The materials used for cleanup were put in a biohazard bag and Lara brought them to Miles hospital for safe disposal.

**Picnic Tables/Adirondack Chairs:**

There have been recent inquiries regarding donations for memorial picnic tables and Adirondack chairs in the parks. Two people have expressed interest in picnic tables (one being handicapped accessible) and one person has expressed interest in a set of Adirondack chairs. The Commissioners approved the purchase of these, and Lara will contact the interested parties about moving forward. Clyde suggested contacting the people who expressed interest in benches a while ago to see if they would be interested in memorial picnic tables instead.

**Rusty Rogers Chair Donation:**

Patty Kempton donated a beautiful wooden chair that Rusty Rogers had carved. The chair is on display at Ellingwood with some photos of Rusty and a sign that says, "Rusty Rogers is here in spirit".

**Morning Meditation Update:**

Jane Bjerklie-Barry attended the meeting to discuss the morning mediation program that occurred this past season at Lighthouse Park. Jane thought the groups went very well with a mix of both locals and visitors to the area and she would like to continue the program next year. Jane has ideas for introductory workshops for things like improved sleep, stress/anxiety, among other things. The Commissioners suggested the use of Ellingwood for future programs, especially over the winter and Jane said she would email more ideas to Lara for her to share with the Commissioners. Jane presented a donation for the Veterans Memorial that was a portion of the donations she received for her classes.

**Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Lights:**

Todd Richards attended the meeting to discuss LED lights for bicycles and pedestrians. Todd brought a USB rechargeable rear facing bike light that cost about \$3 each. These charge in about 10-12 hours and then they run for 24 hours sometimes. Todd found some distributors on eBay that provide free shipping. Todd asked how many lights Parks would be interested in purchasing to give out. Clyde thought it might be good to start with 100 and see how many people picked up a free light. The Department of Transportation also provided Parks with reflective stickers and slap bracelets to give out to cyclists and pedestrians as well. The group talked about who is cycling and it was agreed that fewer kids are riding bikes on the roads and there seems to be more pedestrians on the roads. The group talked about initiating this project in the spring. Lara had concerns about waiting to give these out and feels that this project should be started right away, especially since Parks already has some safety items to give out. If Parks offered the first batch of lights, then maybe other organizations such as the Fire Dept, Mason's, Lion's Club, Rotary, etc. might be interested in purchasing another batch of lights. The group will reach out to these organizations to see if they are interested. Lara will work on a press release and give it to the Commissioners for approval before submitting.

**Ellingwood Staffing:**

The foot traffic at Ellingwood Information Center has slowed down quite a bit. Meredith only had one visitor on Saturday and Pat only had three visitors on Tuesday. The Commissioners discussed reducing the hours. Clyde said to stop staffing Ellingwood after this week.

**Ukulele Night:**

The weekly ukulele nights at the beach are coming to an end due to the colder weather and shorter days. Heidi asked if the group could use Ellingwood as a place to gather on Thursday evenings going forward. Lara said the Tai Chi teacher asked about using Ellingwood as well and the Commissioners agreed that Ellingwood was a great place to host these again through the winter

**Staff Celebration:**

The group discussed the upcoming staff celebration. The number of people who have responded as attending was discussed and the group talked about what supplies/food were needed in preparation.

**Other Business:**

Mary attended to discuss the hole in the pavement at the entrance to the park and she asked if Sean could fill it with cold patch. Lara will check with Sean. Mary also has concerns about a path that has been created by water run off that leads to the rocks at the lighthouse. Mary thinks this path needs to be blocked off to prevent people from using this path to walk on the rocks. Clyde wondered if a rock could be put there to block this path. Lara will check with Sean about any rocks that might be available to use for this.

**Public Comments:**

Sandra made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:34, Laurie seconded, and motion carried.

**Meeting adjourned** at 8:34 p.m.