

TOWN OF SOUTH WINDSOR
NAMING OF PUBLIC LANDS AND BUILDINGS SUB-COMMITTEE
MINUTES
October 8, 2020

1. *Call Meeting to Order*

Chairman Evans called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

2. *Roll Call*

Members Present: Chairperson Evans
 Councilor Lopez
 Councilor Maneeley

Others Present: Mayor Andy Paterna
 Ray Favreau, Director of Park and Recreation
 Mike Kelly, Chairman, Park & Recreation Commission

3. *Approval of Minutes (3/3/20)*

Councilor Lopez made a motion to approve the minutes of March 3, 2020. Councilor Maneeley seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote of 2 to 0 with Councilor Maneeley abstaining.

4. *Discussion Items*

A. Naming Considerations: John Mitchell

Mayor Paterna explained that the family of John Mitchell is comfortable with naming the Fairgrounds at Rye Street Park, formally the Barton property, after him. Chairperson Evans added that the other location that was previously discussed was the pavilion at Veterans Memorial Park, but since the last meeting, the Sub-Committee has found out that it is not a viable option.

Mr. Ray Favreau, Director of Parks and Recreation, explained to the Sub-Committee that the Fairgrounds at Rye Street Park was formally known as the Barton property because that is the family that the Town purchased the property from back in 1997. A question was raised regarding any restrictions that may have been placed on the deed. This was researched, and there are no restrictions on the deed for the naming of this property. Mr. Favreau then informed the Sub-Committee that on August 18, 2015,

(Discussion Continued on Next Page)

4. *Discussion Items (Continued)*

A. Naming Considerations: John Mitchell *(Continued)*

the Planning and Zoning Commission agreed to refer to the property as the Fairgrounds at Rye Street Park, which was further endorsed by the Park & Recreation Commission. The Town used \$300,000 of Planning & Zoning Commission monies (in lieu of fees) to clear, grade, seed, and level the property for accessibility to the public. Mr. Favreau recommended to the Sub-Committee that the naming of this property be brought back to the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Park & Recreation Commission for their input and agreement.

After further discussion, Councilor Maneeley made a motion to name the Fairgrounds at Rye Street Park, formally the Barton Property, John J. Mitchell Fairgrounds at Rye Street Park. Councilor Lopez seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. Chairperson Evans requested that pending agreement from the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Park & Recreation Commission be added to the motion.

Mayor Paterna felt that the Town Council should also consider putting up a plaque with John Mitchell's history on it. Chairperson Evans stated that it could be part of the recommendation at the Town Council meeting.

B. Naming Considerations: James Throwe

Mayor Paterna explained that James Throwe served the Town for a long time and was a former Mayor of the Town. Mr. Throwe was instrumental in the construction project for the South Windsor Town Hall. Mayor Paterna stated he would like to get more input from Mr. Throwe's family regarding the site to be named after him. Councilor Maneeley felt that the family should also give input as to the way they would like to see his name displayed.

Mayor Paterna then stated that he thought the Town Hall should be named after Mr. Throwe since he was instrumental in the construction project of the Town Hall.

(Discussion Continued on Next Page)

4. *Discussion Items (Continued)*

B. Naming Considerations: James Throwe *(Continued)*

Councilor Maneeley suggested naming a room in the Town Hall (Council Chambers) or Town Hall Annex after Mr. Throwe. Mayor Paterna stated that if the Sub-Committee is going to consider a room within the Town Hall, the Council Chambers would seem to be the most appropriate.

Councilor Lopez felt that a garden within a park would be more appropriate because it would have more exposure.

Chairperson Evans said that she likes the idea of giving the Town Hall the name of someone with importance.

Mr. Favreau suggested naming a garden at the Veterans Memorial Park after Mr. Throwe because he was involved with the military. It is already a memorial area and very publicly visible. If this suggestion is considered, it should be brought to the Patriotic Commission because they are involved in developing that whole memorial area at Veterans Memorial Park.

Chairperson Evans requested that Mayor Paterna speak with Mr. Throwe's family, and the Sub-Committee will meet again to discuss this item further.

C. Naming Considerations: Al Larson

Mr. Mike Kelly, Chairperson of the Park & Recreation Commission, explained to the Sub-Committee that Al Larson had been instrumental on the Park & Recreation Commission and the Veterans Memorial Park Task Force. He was responsible for part of the renovations of the pool at Veterans Memorial Park and for getting a referendum through. Mr. Larson also volunteered his services for the summer programs and the swim team. The Park & Recreation Commission would like the opportunity to recognize Al Larson for all of his work and have suggested naming the interior driveway in Veterans Memorial Park after him.

Mayor Paterna added that Mr. Larson has put in countless days and hours performing different tasks for the Town of South Windsor.

(Discussion Continued on Next Page)

4. *Discussion Items (Continued)*

C. Naming Considerations: Al Larson *(Continued)*

Councilor Lopez made a motion to name the interior driveway from the lower parking lot to the upper parking lot at Veterans Memorial Park, Al Larson Lane. Councilor Maneeley seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Committee members requested that Mr. Favreau checks with Mr. Larson to confirm how Mr. Larson would like his name displayed.

5. *Miscellaneous*

A. *Recommendations to the Town Council*

Chairperson Evans stated that the recommendations for John Mitchell and Al Larson would be brought to the Town Council meeting scheduled on October 19, 2020. A future meeting of the Naming of Public Lands and Buildings Sub-Committee will be held to discuss recommendations for Mr. James Throwe.

6. *Adjournment*

At 5:18 p.m., Councilor Maneeley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Lopez seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah W. Reid
Council Clerk