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MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M  
AT THE YOUTH CENTER, CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT

Present: Jim Nankin, Chairman, Paul Fracasse, Steve Trifone, Patrick Duffy, Mike O'Donnell, Dan Nowak and Karen Bertoni

Staff Present: Bob Ceccolini, Director  
Sandy Petela, Deputy Director

Absent: Peter Talbot, Liaison

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Nankin called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Commission Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING**

MOTION: Mr. Fracasse made a motion to accept the March minutes.

MOVED Mr. Trifone seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**COUNCIL LIAISON**

Mr. Talbot is absent from the meeting.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Communications

There are no communications to discuss this month.

Tobacco Free Parks

Mr. Ceccolini said the tobacco free parks would be before the Council on April 17 for a vote.

Mr. Nankin said he doesn't have a strong feeling this will be approved, he's not sure.

Mr. Ceccolini said there are 25 park rules in the ordinance; no one has been arrested but the rules are there. He said the rules can be amended with the Director's permission. He suggested adding that cigars can be used at the park for events. He noted smoking is an image for young kids and they are trying to get rid of that image. Mr. Ceccolini said he feels there is enough support for this.

*Karen Bertoni arrived at 7:11 P.M.*

### Parks Discussion

Mr. Nankin informed the Commission the Parks part of P&R will be under the direction of Public Works and the Recreation part of P&R will be here. The town is not going to fill Kevin's job or Bob's job. He noted they are looking at saving money. He informed the Commission they will still meet; we still have a Commission.

Mr. Ceccolini said he and Sandy attended the budget meetings and went to the Public Works budget meetings. The Council minutes are online and the parks crew would help public works with plowing snow.

Mr. Ceccolini talked about all that P&R does now and how the department is fluid and flexible and no one wants to see things like that go away. He repeated what Mr. Nankin said, Kevin would not be replaced and that is a loss to the Town. He noted with the addition of the trail and the Chapman Farm and that we are losing guys.

Mr. Ceccolini said he is retiring at the end of May and Sandy will be acting director.

Mr. Ceccolini said he and Sandy had a meeting with the guy that does the organic lawns the water needs to be turned on for the fields and the concession stand.

Mr. O'Donnell asked if the Parks Dept. is going to be a separate department in Public Works? Mr. Ceccolini replied yes.

Mr. Trifone asked of Public Works is going to be getting involved in the parks? Mr. Ceccolini replied yes.

Mr. Trifone added that Sandy is passionate about the job and very capable to do the job.

Mr. O'Donnell said we are still down another person with the new addition of the linear trail.

## **BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION**

Mr. O'Donnell informed the Commission this Saturday at 10:00 AM there will be a shovel ground breaking ceremony for the Cornwall section of the linear trail at the parking lot. DOT will be in attendance also.

Mr. Ceccolini said it is a two-year project. The expected completion of this portion of the trail is Fall of 2018. Its 4.5 million for the portion of the 8/10 of the mile. There would be cement bridges not wood through the wetlands.

Mr. O'Donnell said the Commission is staking out the next set of trees at Bartlem Park. A grouping of low perennials would be put in front of the sign for Bartlem Park. He noted the Commission is all for taking down the bushes at Cheshire Park.

Mr. O'Donnell stated we may not have the easy access to P&R like we do now in the future.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### Parks Update

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission not much is going on and Mother Nature hasn't helped. The lines are down on the soccer and lacrosse fields today. No one has played because it has been too wet out at Bartlem. At Quinnipiac the field drains well so there have been some practices there. Some lacrosse kids are going to Quinnipiac tonight. Mr. Ceccolini said one of the college kids starts at the Parks crew this spring. He informed the Commission no one is at CYB anymore; the Town would have to pick it up.

Mr. Ceccolini said the pool was up last week in revenue and is well ahead of pace with expenses being low. Sheila has been collecting money for swim meets also. Landscaping and paving has been completed at the facility. He added the heat is a lot less than what was anticipated and the water is less as well. There were 10 birthday parties last weekend alone.

Dr. Duffy asked if the recent snow was a problem? Mr. Ceccolini replied no, a snow blower was installed on the John Deere and the snow slides down the facility. The snow has to be removed away from the doors. Mr. Ceccolini said Brian stayed at the pool for the whole storm and people worked overtime to shovel snow.

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission that Nick Palladino, who is their head lifeguard left and moved to Texas. People have until next Friday to apply for the position.

### Recreation Update

Ms. Petela said next week is April vacation and activities are planned. On Tuesday is the fishing derby; Monday Mixville will be stocked.

Mr. Ceccolini said Harding Fish supplies the fish. The town buys it and they stock Mixville for the derby.

Ms. Petela said on Wednesday is the Muck Run at Mixville and there are new obstacles. Some are the build a wall and the balance beam. Mr. Ceccolini said last year there were 100 kids to participate.

Ms. Petela said Thursday is Touch a Truck.

Ms. Petela said the spring programs begin a week after. The CIT's are hiring people soon and we are lining up the summer help.

Ms. Petela said she would look into dollar days at the pool for next week. Mr. Ceccolini said on the snow days the pool was full.

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission the sponsorship was approved. The first sponsor would be at Touch a Truck next week. The summer concerts are the big ones. There are 2 bands set for the summer concert series so far; a cover band for the Grateful Dead and one for Bruce Springsteen. Hopefully all four slots would be filled in the next couple of weeks.

### Budget Update

Mr. Ceccolini said Peter Talbot is at the budget meeting tonight.

## **COMMISSIONER'S FORUM**

Mr. Trifone said he's sad to see Mr. Ceccolini and me leave P&R. He said he enjoys working with Sandy and she has his support.

Mr. Nowak said he has known Mr. Ceccolini for 25 years and he is right up there for helping people and appreciates everything he has done for everyone. He said Sandy is always there to back you up. He said he's also sad to see me go. Mr. Nowak asked if a college guy could be used in the summer. Mr. Nankin replied for now, yes.

Mr. Ceccolini said the four guys are supposed to be with the Park's guys. Mr. Nowak said he thought P&R would be left alone, it is such a big part of the town. He said he doesn't think people will be happy to hear of this.

Dr. Duffy said he isn't happy to see Mr. Ceccolini leave, he's too young and not happy to see me go either. He said he is happy to see Sandy at the meetings.

Mr. Fracasse said same sentiments as everyone else and have a good holiday.

Ms. Bertoni told Mr. Ceccolini the Town has been lucky to have him for so long. She said he built this place and it's a wonderful program.

Mr. O'Donnell thanked Mr. Ceccolini for his service to the town. He wished Sandy good luck. He said he understands the financial difficulties but is not happy with the decision. He thanked Mr. Ceccolini for all he has done.

Mr. Nankin said he has been with Mr. Ceccolini for 25 years, a lot of joking around but we have worked well together. His concern is it will take a couple of years to take affect like Mr. O'Donnell said. Mr. Nankin told Sandy he is here for her if she needs him.

Mr. Ceccolini said the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the parade is this year and 100 years since WWI.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Dr. Duffy made a motion to adjourn.

**MOVED:** Mr. Trifone seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** The motion was passed unanimously by those present. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Attest:

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Claudia J. Baron, Clerk  
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