

**MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

Meeting Held On Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at 7:00 P.M  
Youth Center, Cheshire, CT

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

Karen Bertoni arrived at 7:13pm

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

Council Present: 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 APRIL MEETING**

MOTION: Mr. O'Donnell made a motion to accept the April minutes.

MOVED Mr. Nowak seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**COUNCIL LIAISON**

Mr. Talbot spoke about the budget and what is happening at the State level.

Mr. Nankin advised all present that Mr. Ernie DiPietro passed away. Commission members expressed sympathy and spoke about how much he'll be missed. Mr. DiPietro was a large part of the Town and Mr. Ceccolini stated some of the activities that Mr. DiPietro had been involved in in the past included the bike rodeo and the Memorial Day Parade.

Mr. Nankin announced that Mr. Ceccolini has been chosen to be Grand Marshal of the Memorial Day Parade this year.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Communications

There are no communications to discuss this month

### Tobacco Free Parks

The Town Council passed the proposed ordinance prohibiting the use of all forms of tobacco in Town Parks, on Public School Grounds, and on Any Other Designated Town-Owned Property on April 17, 2017.

### **BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION**

It was stated by Mr. O'Donnell that the lights look great at the corner of Cook Hill. Mr. Ceccolini stated that the lights will also be done by the same electrician at the Medal of Honor Star at the entrance to Bartlem Park, and at the parklet by St. Peter's.

Mr. O'Donnell asked that mulch be placed in front of Town Hall, near the stairs, facing Route 10. No flowers, just mulch.

There was discussion about the tree in front of the Yellow House. Mr. Ceccolini stated that it is on the list to be taken care of.

A discussion followed about the status of the Parks & Recreation Commission and who from Public Works might be attending the meetings.

Mr. Nankin announced that Mr. Ceccolini's retirement party would be held at the Youth Center on May 24 and that tickets will be available at the Parks & Recreation office and at the Pool.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

#### Parks Update

Mr. Ceccolini reported that the pool was closed on April 28, 2017 due to the motor for the filters burning out. The pool could not be open with no filters. A new engine was purchased, shipped overnight, and installed, and the pool was reopened on May 2, 2017. Revenues as of today are at \$440,000. The anticipated revenue could possibly hit the budgeted amount of \$600,000. On May 13, there is a large swim meet at the pool, and a lacrosse event at Bartlem Park. In addition, Thomaston Feed is having a large event for dogs at Cheshire Park that same day.

Mr. Ceccolini advised the commission members that on Tuesday, May 9, there is a public hearing for naming the field after Kevin Simmons. Also, there will be a bench with a plaque at the park near the field closest to the pool. It will be located near the backstop and there will be a sign on the backstop. There will be a short ceremony when everything is ready.

Kevin is coming back to work, due to the weather being so wet this year, there is a need for additional help and it's better when the help is already familiar with the fields and procedures.

#### Recreation Update

Mrs. Petela stated that the Muck Run was successful and a lot of fun. It was the second year and there were more challenging obstacles built by the Parks Crew. Mr. Ceccolini stated that this year seemed to be a younger crowd and a lot of parents ran the course as well. Touch a Truck and the Fishing Derby were also well-attended and that the weather was very nice for all the events.

Mrs. Petela told the Commission that Parks & Recreation had it's first sponsor. Forrester's Financial sponsored Touch A Truck this year for \$550. Mr. Ceccolini stated that there are other sponsorships available and that Mrs. Adams at the Pool sent out sponsorship information to various companies in Town.

Mr. Ceccolini spoke about the summer concerts and the hope that he can keep costs down this year.

Mr. Ceccolini stated that there was some discussion on the Community Forum that was noticed by staff that people were mobilizing to do a cleanup. There is a very polluted pond behind Bozzuto's. The Parks Crew were sent there on a rainy day and they took close to 30 bags of trash (approximately one ton) out of the pond and most was covered in oil or diesel fuel and DOT and DEEP were both notified. DOT apologized and said that it should have been part of their job, and it was noticed, but never taken care of.

Mr. Ceccolini continued that there is a movement by the Chamber to get fireworks for the Fall Festival. It needs to be determined where they might be able to be shot off. If the Chapman property can be used, it would be about 600 feet from the Pool. A question was raised about there possibly being an area at the high school fields that can be used but was determined that there was not an appropriate spot.

#### Budget Update

Mr. Ceccolini said capital budget is due in June. One item that is on the list is tennis courts. The next set of courts to be done will be at Cheshire Park. The courts at Dodd are in limbo right now due to not knowing the status of Dodd. The department is also going to ask for a bigger lawnmower. The mowers right now do about a 6 foot cut. The mower that is being requested would have a 12 foot cut. This mower would be used at both Quinpiac and Bartlem Parks.

Mr. Ceccolini expressed his pleasure at working with this Commission and that this is his last of over 400 commission meetings. He thanked Mrs. Bertoni for the cake and also said he was sorry that Claudia Baron was not available as this would have been her last meeting as well.

#### **COMMISSIONER'S FORUM**

The Commissioners expressed their best wishes to Mr. Ceccolini on his retirement.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Mr. Fracasse made a motion to adjourn.

MOVED: Mr. Duffy seconded the motion.

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

Attest:

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Stephanie Dunn, Acting Clerk