

**MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 2017, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE YOUTH CENTER,
SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410**

Present

James Nankin, Chairman; Members: Dr. Patrick Duffy, Paul Fracasse, Dan Nowak, Michael O'Donnell.

Staff: Sandra Petela, Acting Director; Town Council Liaison Peter Talbot

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Nankin called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The clerk called the roll.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The group Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

3. MINUTES OF JUNE 7, 2017 MEETING

MOTION by Dr. Duffy; seconded by Mr. O'Donnell

MOVED to approve the June 7, 2017 Meeting subject to corrections, additions, deletions.

Correction: Dan Nowak was cited as both present and absent; Mr. Nowak was absent from this meeting.

VOTE The motion passed 5-1; Mr. Nowak abstained.

4. COUNCIL LIAISON – PETER TALBOT

Councilor Talbot reported on the State budget, and advised there could be a vote by the Legislators on July 18th, without an impact on municipalities this year. If the budget is not passed, there could be a supplemental tax bill of up to \$1,000 to Cheshire taxpayers this year.

The Council did not approve sending the proposed new middle school project, \$106.4M, to referendum this year.

Capital Expenditure Budget (CEP) – the Parks and Rec Department presents its capital budget to the Town Council on July 19th. Ms. Petela stated she has met with Town Manager Milone on this budget, and will meet with him again before July 19th.

Chairman Nankin stated that he will go directly to Town Manager Milone about appointment of a Public Works liaison to the Parks and Rec Commission. He will request the person be a supervisor or above, someone with authority in the PW Department, to work with and make changes with Parks and Rec, as necessary.

Ms. Petela has attended transition meetings with four PW supervisory staff and believes one of them will be the liaison to Parks and Rec.

At the next meeting in September, Mr. Milone would like to address the Commission members and update them on the transition, and where we are going.

MOTION by Mr. Nankin; seconded by Mr. Fracasse.

MOVED that the Parks and Recreation Commission suspend the August 2017 meeting.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

• COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Nankin read two communications into the record regarding the Dog Park, and non-permanent pools at the park or sprinklers for the dogs during the hot summer days. Copies of these letters are attached to these minutes.

Chesprocott Health District Director, Maura A. Esposito, RS., MPH dated June 28, 2017. In her letter, Ms Esposito stated that the health district does not regulate these types of pools; is hesitant to give approval based on past practice; these pools were removed from the park last year; and she recommended contacting the Animal Control Officer. In her letter, Ms. Esposito also cited CT PH Code 19-13B1(g) and 19-12B2.

Tracy Ford e-mail dated June 30, 2017, sent to Ms. Petela, requesting approval for pools and/or sprinklers at the Dog Park.

With regard to this request for "pools" at the Dog Park, Mr. Nankin noted that last year people did bring plastic pools to the park. People left them on site filled with water; the water breeds mosquitoes; Park and Rec Department does not have staff to maintain a dog pool (empty, clean, refill with water). He said the park is a place for people to bring their dog to socialize and run around without a leash. Dog owners can then take the dog home, take care of and cool down the dog. Mr. Nankin stated it is inappropriate for the Park and Rec Department to undertake the maintenance of plastic pools at the Dog Park.

Director Petela informed the Commissioners that she spoke with the Animal Control Officer about the request for these pools at the Dog Park. The Officer said that the owners allow dogs to share toys etc. at the park. The pools would be okay if they are emptied and taken off site every day, so there is no illness issue.

It is uncertain if there is water or a well at this park, and Mr. Nankin said it would require a maintenance person to turn the water on and off.

MOTION by Mr. Nowak; seconded by Mr. Trifone

MOVED that the Parks and Recreation Commission will not permit pools or sprinklers at the Cheshire Dog Park.

Discussion

The Commissioners briefly discussed the motion, and comments included the fact that there is no sprinkler system in the parks for people, and there is drinking water at the Dog Park, not pool water.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Benches at Dog Park – The Commission discussed benches at the Dog Park that are not standard issue, with people wanting special order benches with metal mesh underneath. One standard bench, already approved, is in the park.

Mr. Nankin stated the bench that is recommended for the park is the standard bench, with nothing underneath, and it is a bench for people, not dogs.

Mr. Nowak suggested a sign at the park stating “No dogs on the benches”. This message could be added to the list of rules and regulations for the park.

MOTION by Mr. Nowak; seconded by Mr. Trifone

MOVED that the Parks and Recreation Commission stated it is against the rules of the Dog Park for dogs to be on the benches at the park.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

- COMMISSION PICNIC

The Commissioners discussed the date and location of the annual picnic. It will be held on Wednesday, September 6th, 5:30 p.m. at Bartlem Park. An invitation will be extended to Town Manager Milone, former Director Ceccolini and PW Director Noewatne to attend the picnic. Ms. Petela will extend the invitation.

- PUBLIC WORKS LIAISON

This agenda item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

6. **BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION – meeting on July 12th.**

7. **DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Sandy Petela**

- PARKS UPDATE

Ms. Petela advised that the Chamber of Commerce Carnival will be held at Bartlem Park in the area near the public bathrooms. There is a swim meet at the pool on July 8 and July 9; the park will be very busy with this tournament and events. The parks are operating very well with lots of rentals.

The lines of communication between the Parks and PW Departments are being kept open, and transition meetings are being held every Thursday.

Chairman Nankin brought up the issue of fireworks at the Fall Festival event and his concerns about safety for the community pool. The matter comes before the Town Council on July 11th. He noted the pool is very busy, is running smoothly, and not showing a deficit. On a personal level, Mr. Nankin expressed his opposition to the fireworks at Bartlem Park, near the community pool, right next to the flammable pool roof. He stated the warranty on the new pool structure would be voided by the fireworks if anything were to happen to the pool, and another location should be found for the fireworks, possibly Cheshire Park.

The Commission was told by Mr. Nankin that he met a man from New Haven, a member of the Cheshire Community Pool, who commented to him about the great pool facility and park, and it being a fun place for kids. The man stated the pool and park are a great asset to the Cheshire community.

MOTION by Dr. Duffy; seconded by Mr. O'Donnell.

MOVED that the Parks and Recreation Commission opposes the return of fireworks to Bartlem Park because of the potential danger and damage to the Community Pool structure; and, fireworks at Bartlem Park would void the warranty on the new pool structure.

Discussion

Mr. O'Donnell stated that the reward is not worth the risk.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

- RECREATION UPDATE

Concert Series – Ms. Petela distributed information on the upcoming concert series at Bartlem Park, Friday nights, 7:00 p.m., starting July 21st through August 11th. She advised no food truck vendors have approached her to have their trucks at the concerts. To date there are no sponsors for the concert series. Next year, Ms. Petela will begin looking for sponsorships during the winter for 2018 concerts. Anyone interested in a sponsorship should contact the Parks and Rec Department.

Basketball Courts – the courts at the Youth Center, Cheshire Park and MacNamara Park will be renovated and updated later in the year. This project will be part of the department capital budget.

- **BUDGET UPDATE**

Councilor Talbot commented on the Town being only 5 days into the new fiscal year and budget year. More information on the State budget will be known after July 18th. Without passage, everything is on the table.

8. COMMISSIONER'S FORUM

Mr. Nowak stated he is pleased about the upcoming concert series. Regarding food truck vendors, he asked about the department contacting the vendors to find out if they are interested in having a food truck at the park for the concerts.

Chairman Nankin commented on the fact that "Power Station" has been the company providing the audio etc. for the concert series over the last few years. An out-of-town company (Big Wave) came forward and talked to Mr. Ceccolini about its service, at a lower cost than the current provider.

Ms. Petela reported on meeting between Town Manager Milone, Director Ceccolini, and representatives from Power Station about the concert series and associated costs. Following this meeting, the decision was to have Big Wave provide services for the first two concerts, and Power Station for the last two concerts. After the series is over there can be discussion and decision on the quality of services from both companies. She did note that there would be about \$2,000 to \$2,500 savings per concert using Big Wave as the vendor.

Mr. Trifone wished everyone a great summer. He was unable to attend the June meeting due to tournaments and athletic schedules at the high school.

It was stated by Mr. Nankin that the Cheshire High School student athletes had a great year, and represented the Town of Cheshire very well.

Dr. Duffy wished everyone a happy summer, and commended Ms. Petela on doing a good job at her first meeting as Director.

Mr. Fracasse expressed good wishes for a great summer for everyone.

Mr. O'Donnell asked when the signs for the concert series would be installed.

In response, Ms. Petela said they would be up very soon.

Chairman Nankin welcomed Ms. Petela as the new Director and Ms. Milton back as Clerk of the Commission. He asked everyone to check out the Community Pool site...it is a great asset to the Town and the Park and Rec Department.

There was no further business to be conducted.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Dr. Duffy, seconded by Mr. Trifone

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

ATTEST:


MARILYN W. MILTON, CLERK