

**MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE  
YOUTH CENTER, 559 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE, CT 06410**

**Present:** Chairman Patrick Duffy, Karen Bertoni, Paul Fracasse, Dan Nowak,  
Robert Parr, Michael O'Donnell, and Steve Trifone  
Council Liaison, Peter Talbot

**Special Guests:** Arnett Talbot, Assistant Town Manager for Administration/Public  
Information Officer and Mark Cunningham, Highway Superintendent

**Staff:** Josh Medeiros, Director, Chris Rusack, Program Coordinator and  
Elizabeth Mayne, Program Supervisor

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chairman Duffy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Clerk called the roll and determined a quorum was present.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The group pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

Dr. Duffy introduced the guests to the Commission.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Attending the meeting was a Boy Scout Member of Troup 51. Jacob Niebling of 1400  
Allen Court is a sophomore at Cheshire High School. He was attending the meeting in  
order to complete the Communication Badge.

There were no other public comments.

**4. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES, FEBRUARY 6, 2019**

**MOTION** by Mr. Nowak, seconded by Mr. Farr

Mr. Fracasse abstained because he was not in attendance at the February meeting.

**MOVED** to approve and accept the minutes of February 6, 2019

**VOTE** The motion passed unanimously

**5. PARKS UPDATE**

Mr. Cunningham addressed questions by the members regarding the fertilizing of the fields and the aeration of the fields. Bartlem Park was discussed as having a drainage issue.

Mr. Parr inquired about the seeding of the Dog Park. Mr. Cunningham responded that Public Works will not be seeding the dog park. There are 3 areas of the dog park. The agility area is the area that has more water and mud and is in need of seeding. There was discussion of the feasibility of closing the dog park. Mr. Cunningham reiterated that it was decided by his superiors not to close the dog park for seeding because of concern expressed by the dog owners. There was discussion about the financial aspect of seeding and whether it should be a town expense or be the responsibility of the dog owners. Dr. Duffy asked Mr. Cunningham to find out what kind of fertilizer is used for the sports fields and report back at next month's meeting for further discussion.

**6. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT**

Mr. Talbot stated that the budget review will start the middle of March. The Park & Rec budget review meeting will be March 25. Also on the Town Council Agenda is the announcement of the new Parks & Rec Director, as well as the Chapman property; Mr. Talbot will report on these at the next Park & Rec meeting.

**7. COMMUNICATIONS**

None

**8. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Dr. Duffy inquired about the Director's position. Ms. Talbot stated that application process is closed and the review is in progress.

**9. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Chapman Property Master Plan – Dr. Medeiros stated that the proposal was sent to the Town Council. Mr. Talbot informed the members that the consensus of the Town Council members has to hold off awarding the project until the new Director of Park & Rec is hired. Dr. Medeiros encouraged the members to attend the budget review meeting for Park & Rec. Ms. Talbot stated that the budget meeting dates are listed on the town's website. Dr. Medeiros said that one of the recommendations was to have a new position added for Assistant Director due in part to the fact that Park & Rec now handles the scheduling of the school gyms in town for outside programs such as basketball, soccer and baseball. This requires substantial staff time.

Mr. Parr inquired about the reduction of the fees and how it affects the revenue of the Park & Rec. Mr. Talbot explained that the Town Council felt the higher rates made residents feel they are being taxed twice and that is the reason that the rates were reduced. Discussion continued about this issue. Mr. Parr requested that his objections and concerns on this subject should be part of the minutes. Dr. Duffy suggested that this matter be brought up at the Town Council meeting.

## **10. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Memorial Bench Request from Holly Cannon**

Dr. Medeiros read the request made by Holly Cannon for a bench in her son's memory, Christopher Settembri.

**MOTION** by Ms. Bertoni, seconded by Mr. Trifone

**MOVED** to approve the memorial bench

**VOTE** The motion passed unanimously

### **b. Financials**

Dr. Medeiros presented the February 2019.

Recreation revenues remain the highest they have been, trending \$17,745 more revenue compared to last fiscal year.

Community Pool revenues continue to climb and are at their highest with over \$90,000+ revenues compared to last fiscal.

Expenses remain down in both Recreation and Community Pool accounts compared to last fiscal year.

### **c. Recreation Director Recruitment Updates**

Dr. Medeiros reiterated that the position closed on March 1 and the Town Council will be reviewing those applications. Ms. Talbot stated that there will be a panel assembled of all Directors of nearby Parks Departments. These Directors will make a recommendation and the Commission will be receiving updates on their decision.

Ms. Mayne discussed the Spring Brochure that will be posted the next day online and in the newspapers. Residents are eager to enroll their children in the summer programs. The Fishing Derby will be held on Saturday April 6. Spring Spectacular and Touch-A-Truck will be held the Tuesday before school vacation, April 16. We will ask residents to bring a donation to the food pantry. We have trucks lined up for this event. The Muck Run will be held the Wednesday of the April spring school break, April 17. There will be wellness training, obstacle courses, inflatables and crafts.

Mr. Rusack distributed a copy of the activities for Adventure Camp, Friday Nights Summer Concerts dates and special events at the Community Pool.

There will be swim lessons and free swim during the camp for younger kids. This will introduce the pool to more residents and potentially translate into more pool memberships.

Dr. Duffy stated that getting younger kids involved in these activities is very beneficial.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Mr. Trifone, seconded by Mr. Nowak

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present

Respectfully submitted, \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Angela Izzo".

Angela Izzo