

MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2011, AT 6:30 P.M. AT THE
CHESHIRE YOUTH CENTER, CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT

Present: Jim Nankin, Chairman, Paul Fracasse, Karen Bertoni, David
Veleber, Patrick Duffy, Ira Kushner and Mike O'Donnell

Staff Present: Bob Ceccolini

Guests Present: Kevin Simmons
Al Santoro, Intern
Cheryl Corey
Sandi Patela
Sheila Adams

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Nankin called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Commission Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

MINUTES OF THE JULY 7, 2011 MEETING

MOTION: Mr. Veleber made a motion to accept the July 7, 2011 minutes.

MOVED: Mr. Fracasse seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed 5-2; the abstentions were from Ira Kushner and Mike
O'Donnell.

Mr. Nankin thanked all the Commission members for their help at the summer concerts this year.

Mr. Nankin introduced Al Santoro, as the newest intern for P&R.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

COUNCIL LIAISON

None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Communications

Mr. Nankin said he received a communication from a man that was travelling down Route 10 from Bartlem Park down to Cheshire Park and noted that the parks are full of people.

Pool Discussion

Ms. Adams discussed with the Commission the updates regarding the pool. She said the town is getting a bubble as everyone is now aware of and the town is working on a contract. The engineer we are working with is from Arizon Structures. Some of the work has begun but will not be completed until there is a commitment from us. If the contract is signed next, at least two weeks would be needed to get everything started and then 10 weeks is needed from there. We are probably looking at around the first week of December to have the bubble installed.

Mr. Nankin questioned what took so long to get to this point?

Ms. Adams replied the wording in the contract.

Mr. Nankin asked if there are any changes in the contract. Are we still getting the state-of-the-art bubble and blower?

Ms. Bertoni left at 6:40 P.M.

Ms. Adams replied that everything else is the same. We are still getting the same hang lights but they are enclosed, and we will have a more efficient light bulb. The blower unit will make a huge difference because it will circulate better. The horsepower for the engines is seven. The stifling feeling in the bubble will no longer be there. The old way consisted of the temperature being 82 degrees on the pool deck but 100 degrees at the top of the bubble. It will now be a more comfortable area.

Mr. Nankin said the new blower recycles warm air with the outside air and at a variable speed.

Ms. Adams said the new system has a built-in auxiliary generator. It will heat air coming back into the building.

Mr. Nankin question if the first week is a realistic time frame?

Ms. Adams replied that she thinks it is but depending on the weather it may not be necessarily go up on December 1st.

Mr. Veleber questioned if the bubble is the same as before, that it would be attached to the building?

Ms. Adams replied yes. Mr. Ceccolini added the insurance company gave us the money to do the same thing.

Mr. O'Donnell questioned if the safety system is going to be the same as before with the grid lock?

Ms. Adams replied yes. Ms. Adams added that we are getting a wind/snow sensor at the top of the bubble that would notify us when it would kick in. It is a diamond shape and the snow won't get caught like the last system. The new bubble has the same R factor and has a 15 year warranty as the new blower has a 25 year warranty.

Ms. Adams said we are getting a tarp to cover the pool for the purpose of putting up and taking down the bubble, it is not a solar cover.

On September 30th the hours at the pool will be limited. The pool will be shut down on October 15th.

Mr. Veleber asked if we opened on December 1, when do the teams come back.

Ms. Adams said the boys' teams and the YMCA are the first to come back.

Mr. Ceccolini said when people had to go to other pools to swim, they came back because they appreciated and missed what we have.

Mr. Nankin asked if we could get an earlier delivery date for the bubble?

Ms. Adams said 10 weeks is pushing it, usually its 14 weeks. There has to be four good days of no rain or wind to put the bubble up.

Mr. Ceccolini said Sheila Adams attended a lot of meetings and one recently while Bob was on vacation. Ed Asner, Coach, complimented Sheila with her knowledge and that she always did a good job at the meetings.

Mr. Nankin said we are starting at a level playing field. He referred to Mr. Shrumm's comment at the town meeting and was quoted in the newspaper as saying "A lot of people don't use the library, but we have one. A lot of people don't use the senior center, but we have one. And guess what, the senior center costs more to operate than the pool".

Kevin Simmons wanted to know if the asphalt strip could be widened on the south side of the structure to help for plowing. A flat surface is needed to get four wheels on.

Mr. Nankin replied this would probably have to be attached to something on the capital budget.

Mr. Duffy suggested putting radiant tubing under the area to melt it.

Mr. Nankin said 44,000 people came into the facility last year.

DOG PARK

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission the dog park public hearing is on September 26, 2011, then it goes to Planning & Zoning and back to the Council who would designate the site as the future home of the dog park. The group is making progress and has raised \$5,000.

Mr. Nankin said the group will be at the fall festival.

Ms. Adams asked if there would be a swim day for the dogs at the pool? Mr. O'Donnell suggested a swim day for the dogs at Mixville Park.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

Mr. O'Donnell said the Commission is waiting for four trees to come in for the south end fire house. Brookside will plant the trees and they are red maples.

Mr. O'Donnell said he suggested to the Commission that the town use stamped concrete instead of pavers for the center of town, in front of town hall. Something else is needed that lasts longer than pavers with the salt and dirt from the winter plows.

Mr. Nankin asked if the town received money to redo the area and fix the parklet?

Mr. Ceccolini replied yes, the money was received. The Public Works Department will do the straight away with concrete and bricks on the edges.

Mr. O'Donnell suggested moving away from bricks all together.

Mr. Ceccolini said Public Works has done good sidewalk work in town and they have a crew for that.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Park Status

Mr. Ceccolini said at the town budget meeting Tom Ruocco said Bartlem Park and the fields look good. We are still using organics on the fields. Mr. Ceccolini said Kevin Simmons does all the projects in the parks with a small crew. P&R has added three fields compared to 10 years ago.

Kevin Simmons said the college kids come to help every year. He said the crews try and keep up as often as they can. A few trees were down at Cheshire Park and one at Mixville from the hurricane, it was minimal damage. He referred to the leaning maple by Mount Sanford and said it isn't going anywhere. Mr. Ceccolini said P&R would probably have to hire a tree company to take that one down.

Mr. Ceccolini said the fall festival is this weekend and we are not allowing any trucks/cars on the grass because it is so wet.

Recreation Programs

Mr. Ceccolini said the fall programs have begun and the summer was busy with camps. He said Sandi Patela oversees the camps and the school requests to use the gyms, etc. Sandi also oversees Elizabeth.

Sandi Patela said an extra week was added onto the camps. There were more kids than last year enrolled. She said we are trying to do programs for the days off of school and holidays. Sandi said they did Willy Wonka and there were close to 1,600 people in attendance and it was successful. Comedy 101 costs money and was eliminated. We didn't lose money, actually gained money this year.

Sandi said P&R is looking into online registrations. Elizabeth and Al are going to attend a meeting tomorrow regarding this.

Mr. Ceccolini said next month is the author's night on our regular meeting night. They will be here at the Youth Center. Our meeting next month is at Arts Place.

Mr. Ceccolini requested that Commission members have ideas for our next meeting in October regarding changing the summer concert night because there are three or four large concerts, food vendors and changing the location of the concerts.

Mr. O'Donnell said Bartlem Park would be the best idea because the town green has no bathroom facilities.

Mr. Nankin said Eight To The Bar was changed to Friday night and people liked the idea of a Friday night concert.

Sheila Adams said if the food is provided, it is considered a family night out.

Sheila Adams asked if a community calendar could be developed. If there was some sort of schedule that we all knew of it would help with all the practices and events.

Sandi Patela said she would be interested in working on this. Mr. Nankin suggested putting the community calendar on the P&R website.

Trail Discussion

Mr. Ceccolini said P&R requested money into the capital budget for the section of West Main Street to Jarvis. It was not funded. It consisted of 2.9 miles and has been moved up.

Mr. Ceccolini said the posted speed limit on the trail is 10 mph. People are taking up the whole width of the trail while they are walking, dogs are on 25-foot leashes and people are on speed bikes. There are a lot of near-accidents on the trail. Mr. Ceccolini said he's scheduled a meeting with the Police Chief regarding a fine in our ordinance book.

Mr. Kushner said the guys on bikes are riding at 30-40 mph speeds and he feels the most dangerous people using the trail are the bikers.

A Commission member suggested putting speed bumps on the trail to slow people down. Mr. Ceccolini said the speed bumps would disturb the rollerblades, strollers and plowing on the trail.

Mr. Nankin said Dick Bartlem was in town and stopped by to see us at P&R. He spoke very highly of Mr. Bartlem and said he had an incredible work ethic.

COMMISSIONER'S FORUM

Mr. Kushner said in accordance with the American Disability Act the Council set money aside for the softball fields at CHS. Dug outs would be installed; handicap ramps, foul ball holes and the fencing would be improved. This would be at the varsity field and the bleacher area would be improved.

Mr. O'Donnell said he attended a family event at Mixville Park and received a lot of compliments on Mixville Park.

Mr. Ceccolini said the drainage that heads out below the dam made a huge difference for the baseball field at Mixville. The sand at Mixville at the bottom of the hill is where the volleyball court is.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. O'Donnell made a motion to adjourn.

MOVED: Mr. Veleber seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion was passed unanimously by those present. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Attest:

Claudia J. Baron, Clerk
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