

**MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. AT
THE YOUTH CENTER, 559 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE, CT 06410**

Present: Chairman Patrick Duffy, Karen Bertoni, Paul Fracasse,
Dan Nowak, Michael O'Donnell, Robert Parr, Steve Trifone

Mark Cunningham, Highway Superintendent

Absent: Council Liaison, Peter Talbot

Staff: John Gawlak, Director

Guest Speaker: Tim Sheehan, Weston & Sampson

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.

3. Weston & Sampson Presentation – Splash Pad

Tim Sheehan, Team Leader, Aquatics Division at Weston & Sampson, presented his proposal for a new Splash Pad to replace the existing kiddie pool that is no longer functional and is not ADA compliant. The new Splash Pad is part of the Chapman RFP Master Plan. He presented drawings of different themed splash pads and provided estimating costs. The proposed Splash Pad would be about 3,000 square feet. The members asked questions and Mr. Sheehan addressed their inquiries. The members believe that this Splash Pad would increase pool memberships and revenues.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

5. Representatives from Cheshire Dog Park:

Dr. Michael T. Patterson, President and Barbara McWhirter, Secretary

Ms. McWhirter addressed the Commission. She stated the Cheshire Dog Park is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organized to raise money to launch the Cheshire Dog Park which is being reorganized to move forward into the future.

Mr. Gawlak is the Town Liaison for the Dog Park.

Ms. McWhirter, informed the members of the current Board of Directors and the immediate start-up costs. She distributed an informational sheet which is attached. The sheet included a mission statement of the organization. She also indicated a list of priority Dog Park needs.

6. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES, JANUARY 8, 2020

MOTION by Mr. O'Donnell, seconded by Mr. Nowak

MOVED to approve and accept the minutes of January 8, 2020

VOTE The motion passed unanimously

7. PARKS UPDATE

Mr. Gawlak stated that work is beginning on the Tennis Courts and the Basketball Courts.

He met with the Kid-N-Motion representatives regarding the playground purchases. He discussed changing the surfacing to pre-engineered wood fiber mulch which is better for users with mobility issues and is very cost effective.

The members stated that the Cheshire Park looks much better after the removal of the bushes and has a better sight line.

Mr. Gawlak presented a request from the Cheshire High School Class of 1988 to rename the Cheshire Park Trail in memory of Mark Jardim, a class member and a runner.

MOTION by Mr. O'Donnell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Trifone

MOVED to name the Cross Country Trail at Cheshire Park Trail after Mark Jardim

VOTE The motion passed unanimously

MOTION by Mr. O'Donnell, seconded by Mr. Parr

MOVED to amend the motion to have a marker provided with signage approved by the Park & Recreation Commission

VOTE The motion passed unanimously

8. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

Mr. Talbot was not in attendance. There was no report.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

None

10. Chairman Report

a. Election of Officers

Chairman

MOTION by Mr. O'Donnell, seconded by Mr. Trifone

MOVED to nominate Mr. Duffy as Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission

VOTE The motion passed unanimously

Vice Chairman

MOTION by Mr. Duffy, seconded by Mr. Fracasse

MOVED to nominate Mr. O'Donnell as Vice Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Commission

VOTE The motion passed unanimously

Secretary

MOTION by Mr. Duffy, seconded by Mr. Nowak

MOVED to nominate Mr. Fracasse as Secretary of the Parks & Recreation Commission

VOTE The motion passed unanimously

11. OLD BUSINESS

a. Chapman Property Master Plan

Mr. Gawlak distributed copies of the Plan showing three concepts.

Concept 1, estimated price is 5 million - this includes minor improvements only.

Concept 2, estimated price is 12 million

Concept 3, estimated price is 13 million

The last two concepts would include the Splash Pad for the pool, 150 more parking spaces and a lighted oversized synthetic field and removing the Community Garden Discussion ensued about the plan. The Chairman stated that he would like the grove trees untouched.

Mr. Gawlak indicated that after various town meetings to discuss the different options, there will be a final recommendation that will go to Town Council for approval.

b. FY 19-20 Budget

Mr. Gawlak distributed a copy of the budget and explained the various items.

12. NEW BUSINESS

None

13. DIRECTOR'S DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mr. Gawlak presented his report.

There was discussion about eliminating the Lock 12 Pavilion due to lack of use, disrepair and cost to update. Concern was expressed by the members about its use, its historical value and relocation.

MOTION by Mr. Fracasse, seconded by Mr. Parr

MOVED to table the vote about Lock 12 Pavilion until next month

VOTE The motion passed unanimously

Mr. Gawlak distributed a copy of the 2020 Park & Recreation Special/Event Facility Request. He discussed the issue of overscheduling and ordinances not being followed. There will be need for extra police presence, ambulance on sight. This may increase the fees for these events.

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Trifone, seconded by Ms. Bertoni

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present

Respectfully submitted,



Angela Izzo