

**MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. AT  
THE YOUTH CENTER, 559 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE, CT 06410**

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

Mark Cunningham, Highway Superintendent

**Absent:** Dan Nowak, Paul Fracasse  
Council Liaison, Peter Talbot

**Staff:** John Gawlak, Director

**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. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

**4. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES, FEBRUARY 5, 2020**

**MOTION** by Mr. Parr, seconded by Mr. Trifone

**MOVED** to approve and accept the minutes of February 5, 2020 with a correction.

Mr. O'Donnell indicated that there should be a correction concerning the High school graduation year, for Mark Jardim, regarding renaming of the Cheshire Park Trail in his memory.

Mr. Gawlak stated he would find out the correct year.

**VOTE** The motion passed unanimously with the correction noted above.

## **5. PARKS UPDATE**

Mr. Cunningham stated that the trees have been taken down at Cheshire Park.

Chairman Duffy stated that he visited Lock 12. Mr. Gawlak stated that Lock 12 needs to be inspected by the Fire Marshal and the Building Inspector to determine the state of the structure and what the cost for improvements would be.

Mr. Gawlak met with the representatives of Kids In Motion to determine what equipment will be needed for the Bartlem Park Playground. The Playground will be closed for 2 to three weeks for improvements. The sandbox will be eliminated and the slide will be reconfigured to be used as a climber, the synthetic surf will be replaced by pre-engineered wood fiber. The main sign will be updated. This should be completed by June.

The basketball courts and the tennis courts will be updated.

Mr. Duffy asked about the area at Quinnipiac that needed to be recoated. Mr. Gawlak said that a driveway sealant will be applied by Public Works and the rest will be addressed in the next two years' budget.

Mr. Gawlak informed the Commission members that he met with the Cheshire Reds, CYB and Public Works staff to outline the opening day, getting fields ready and ask for help out with the cost of equipment such as the clay. Public Works staff will be getting the clay in the fields, updating all electrical outlets, address the irrigation and have all the back stops redone. There was talk of putting in a new batting cage and new permanent fencing around Field 4 at McNamara.

Mr. Gawlak will notify the abutting homeowners regarding the installation of the fence.

## **6. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT**

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

## **7. COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Gawlak read a letter from the Cheshire Dog Park Organization reporting a dog injury at the park. The letter also stated that the Dog Park members would like to pay to replace the old benches with new ones.

## **8. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

None.

## **9. OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. Chapman Property Master Plan**

Mr. Gawlak stated that there was a public meeting scheduled for March 12 but, in order to publish it to allow the public to attend, the meeting will be rescheduled for a later date to be announced. He will inform the members of the new meeting date once it is set.

The CYB will be sending in a notice to release the use of the Concession Stand and liquidate all the equipment. Mr. Gawlak asked the members to think about how the stand will be used in the future.

### **b. FY19-20 Budget**

There will be a budget workshop on March 17. Mr. Gawlak encouraged the members to attend. Chairman Duffy will attend.

Budget increases are for necessities such as extra hours for employees, the new minimum wage state mandate and the cost of the new direct mail brochures.

## **10. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Gawlak spoke about reviewing and revising the Cheshire Park Ordinances. The ordinances were last reviewed in 1995. There was discussion about no smoking at the Dog Park, group sizes at meetings, permit fees for marathons and fees being charged for the use of the trails. Mr. Gawlak will email all members a copy of the ordinances. The Chairman recommended that members review the ordinances and have a discussion as part of a regular upcoming Park & Rec meeting.

## **11. DIRECTOR'S DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Mr. Gawlak presented his report.

He distributed a drawing showing the new office configuration. The bathrooms will be updated and a ADA window will be added.

Mr. Gawlak distributed the following lists to the members:

1. Contact List for Cheshire Sports
2. Special Events/Tournament Facility Request Schedule
3. Master Field Schedule for 2020

He explained each and answered the members' questions.

Mr. Gawlak distributed a chart showing the parking fees and the new parking lot taxes and there was discussion on how to handle this.

The Community Pool position interviews are ongoing.

Regarding the Bartlem Beats Concert Series, 250 letters have been sent out to businesses regarding sponsorship banners.

The Basketball Courts will start next Monday, weather permitting.

Basketball Program was discussed including the complaints received about the youth program not having more time available on the court due to other basketball groups' use.

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION** by Mr. Duffy, seconded by Mr. Trifone

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

**VOTE** The motion passed unanimously by those present

Respectfully submitted,



Angela Izzo