

MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2011, AT 7:00 P.M. AT ARTSPLACE,  
CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT

Present: Jim Nankin, Chairman, David Veleber, Patrick Duffy, and Mike O'Donnell

Staff Present: Bob Ceccolini

Absent: Paul Fracasse, Karen Bertoni and Ira Kushner

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Nankin called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Commission Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

The Commission members took a tour of the building. Mr. Ceccolini talked about the various art programs Arts Place has to offer and the artists themselves. The Commission looked at the future site of the dog park which has been approved.

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission about Cheshire Academy and how they are tightening their rules about usage of their facilities per their new Headmaster. Mr. Ceccolini is trying to work something out so the teams could have use of their pool.

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission that the intern now works part time two mornings a week.

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 7, 2011 MEETING**

MOTION: Mr. Duffy made a motion to accept the September 7, 2011 minutes.

MOVED: Mr. Veleber seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

## COUNCIL LIAISON

None

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

### Communications

Mr. Nankin talked about the discussion at last month's meeting regarding the tree trimming on South Brooksvale Road and said someone approached him the next day on this issue. Mr. Ceccolini said the tree fell on South Brooksvale Road and it was taken care of.

Mr. Ceccolini said he would have Kevin take another look at all the intersections to make sure people are able to see with the trees.

### Pool Discussion

Mr. Ceccolini said the pool will be closed on October 15 until the bubble is installed. The arrival of the bubble is supposed to be mid-December. He noted that furloughs are happening now and employees were given notice last week. He said another full-time staff person would be hired when the pool opens. He said there are two union people as staff, one is part-time with us and part-time with Public Works. We also have one clerical person. Sheila Adams will be left on but will have to take a couple of weeks of vacation. Mr. Ceccolini said he and Ms. Adams are certified while Jason is going to classes to become certified.

Mr. O'Donnell questioned if four days of good weather is still needed to put the bubble up? Mr. Ceccolini replied yes and the bubble would be stored in the parks garage until the weather cooperates.

Mr. O'Donnell referred to the last meeting saying that Kevin talked about a bigger road behind the facility for bigger machines, what is going on regarding this? Mr. Ceccolini replied that George Nowatne and Joseph Michaelangelo is asking Tilcon to come down and give them a price for widening the path to become more like a road.

Mr. Ceccolini said Bob Sheeley from Southern gave a class last Thursday regarding the bubble and economical items related to the whole issue where students could ask questions. Matt Vitello was in the class, he was our intern from the summer.

Mr. Ceccolini said there are no fall programs or lessons scheduled.

Mr. Ceccolini talked to the Commission regarding the old blower system for the pool and said if it was disconnected and removed it would cost the town money. An ad was put in the newspaper as a surplus requesting someone to come and make an offer to remove it.

### Summer Concert Discussion

Mr. O'Donnell said he would be all for moving the summer concerts to Bartlem Park. Mr. Ceccolini responded Friday night concerts at Bartlem would not be a problem. If there are three big groups it could cost us more than what we do now.

Mr. Ceccolini said years ago P&R had sponsors for the concerts. He suggested everyone to think about getting ideas for sponsors.

Mr. Veleber suggested for the Community Band to possibly move them to Wednesday night on the green and allow 100 people to attend that concert. He said the Community Band is smaller and they like to perform. Mr. Ceccolini said they would not be part of the concert series. Mr. Nankin said we could arrange one concert on the green and their band would be the perfect one to perform on the green.

Mr. O'Donnell suggested for food to be involved at the concerts there would have to be an hour and a half to two hours long for concerts. Mr. Ceccolini suggested lighting up the stage and placing lights on the field at Bartlem.

Mr. Ceccolini said the Commission should talk to Power Station to do three nights of concerts. One group could be Aztec Two Step and one could be Eight To The Bar. We would have to come up with another group to fill the third night. Two to three police officers would be needed to secure the traffic on Route 10 for the concerts.

Mr. Nankin suggested having an opening act. Mr. Ceccolini said a local act first cannot be on the main stage. Mr. Nankin suggested the opening groups perform for an hour and the band could perform for 1½ to two hours.

Next month's meeting (November) there should be an update.

### **DOG PARK**

Mr. Ceccolini said the dog park group went to the P&Z Commission and they approved the park 6-1. The next step is to go to the Planning Commission of the Council and get approval from them to go to the Council. Once they are approved, the group can put up signage that says the location is the future dog park.

Mr. Ceccolini said you can buy bricks online to be installed in the park if you are a dog owner or maybe in memory of a dog.

## **BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION**

Mr. O'Donnell said the final four trees were planted in front of the south end fire house. The fire house earned Beauty Spot of the Month with their new sign.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### Park Status

Mr. Ceccolini said he met with the Police Chief and a letter was printed in the Cheshire Herald regarding the trail rules.

Mr. Nankin said P&R requested random bike rides and to be noticed on the trail patrolling. The time period is mostly in the early morning and late afternoon.

Mr. Ceccolini said he reviewed the park rules with the Police Chief who said they can be enforced.

Mr. Ceccolini referred to the building at Bartlem Park and that they are waiting for the drawing to go to the architect. The building would be installed on the concrete slab in the parking lot next to the bathrooms. The building was approved from the Council 7-0.

Mr. Ceccolini said the Mixville pavilion pillars (cedar posts) are being replaced as well as a new roof. Bob Thatcher is taking care of the task.

Mr. Ceccolini said the town has three fields with organic compost. He said the town approached the state about getting our own town organic compost. The town could use our own site and that would prevent us from giving it to Wolcott. The location is behind the old transfer station. This would have to go through the proper channels to be approved.

Mr. Ceccolini said the fields are doing well with the organics. He said two fields were composted this year and the soccer club paid for more than half of the bill this year.

Mr. Ceccolini said the guys are clearing trees at Cheshire Park from the hurricane.

### Recreation Programs

Mr. Ceccolini said next Tuesday night he is asking for \$15,000 for an on-line registration for our programs from our exchange account. Our exchange account consists of ball games and ski trips. He said he talked about it with the Council at the budget meeting but we need their approval.

Mr. Ceccolini said P&R will be paying for a serving host. RecTrack will host the web track for this.

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission that the little kids programs are the most popular. Last week a new program began, when kids are out of school it is like a day of camp for them. He said we had eight kids last week.

### **COMMISSIONER'S FORUM**

None

### **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 8:25 P.M.

Attest:

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Claudia J. Baron, Clerk  
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