

**MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 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

Mark Cunningham, Highway Superintendent

Absent: Paul Fracasse, Robert Par, 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 COMMENTS

- a. Chairman Duffy read into record an email sent in by town resident Jim Ketcher, regarding Linear Path safety concerns and suggestions. The members discussed this issue. Chairman suggested writing a letter to the newspaper editor reminding town residents of the social restrictions and how they apply to the Trail.
- b. Mr. Gawlak read an email from Jean Melendez, Child Advocacy, regarding social distancing and wait time to use the courts. The sign indicating "Cheshire Residents Only" is too small. Some residents are taking a large chunk of time to play on courts and causing others to wait for an open court.
Discussion ensued on possible solutions and Mr. Gawlak will investigate and report to the members his suggestions.

4. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES, JULY 8, 2020

Mr. O'Donnell noted that on page 2 of the minutes, his last name needs to be corrected.

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

MOVED to approve and accept the minutes of July 8, 2020 with the correction on Page 2.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously

5. PARKS UPDATE

Mr. Gawlak informed he members that he reviewed the spreadsheet for the fiscal year 2019/2020 and there is a balance surplus for each park. Bartlem Park has the most dollar amount. All the ramps and other pieces of equipment at the skateboard park will be redone at the end of October for a cost of about \$18,000.00.

Mr. Gawlak reported that the pool lost power during the last storm, causing damage to the UV system, at a cost of \$54,000.00. The pool has insurance and most of this should be covered by the insurance, with the exception of the electrician cost and the deductible of \$10,000.00. The deductible may be covered by FEMA.

The Cheshire Town Beautification Committee will come up with a plan for new plantings by the pool.

The Playground is now open. The slide has gotten a lot us use.

Public Works has opened up the Cheshire park fields and Men's softball has played their championship games.

Chairman Duffy inquired about the status of the youth football playing during this COVID pandemic. Mr. Gawlak stated we are waiting on DECV, CIAC and the Health Department for their ruling. At the moment team activities are scheduled to start on September 21.

Chairman Duffy inquired about the Dog Park. Mr. Gawlak responded that the Dog Park guidelines are on the Council's next agenda. Then when Public Works has time, the new gazebos will be installed.

Mr. O'Donnell asked Mr. Cunningham to have mowing done on the linear trail, around the bridges and the overgrown walking trail.

6. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

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

7. COMMUNICATIONS

None

8. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Duffy read a letter sent to the Town Clerk from Park & Rec member Robert Parr announcing his resignation from this Commission effective July 16, 2020.

9. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Chapman Property Master Plan** – Due to the loss of power during the storm, Weston and Sampson lost a week and has not been able to set up the webinar.

Mr. Gawlak hopes to get a report next week.

- b. **FY19-20 Budget**

Nothing new to report.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Bench Request** – Requested by the Connie J. Klanica Foundation in memory of John Holsworth at Farmington Canal Trail – Linear T.

Mr. Gawlak read the request into the record. Mr. Gawlak would like to have a map showing other memorial benches in the area, to be able to see what areas are still available to install a bench.

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

MOVED to approve the request with the location of the bench to be determined.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present

- b. **Plaque Request** from Barbara Gode Wiles in memory of Peter A. Gode at north of West Main on the Trail.

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

MOVED to approve the plaque request

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present

- c. **Mixville Park Plan**

Mr. Cunningham informed the members that during the recent storm, the irrigation system was damaged.

Chairman Duffy stated that he has received positive comments regarding Mixville Park and the rangers.

Mr. Gawlak stated the passes system is working with no complaints. Discussion ensued about having a kiosk at the park for residents to purchase passes. Mr. Gawlak will gather more information on this system. Chairman Duffy suggested that we also keep the rangers.

d. Parks & Recreation Ordinance Review

Mr. Gawlak will provide a draft of the ordinance to discuss at the next meeting.

e. Begin developing the program to utilize the High School students community hours to help Park & Rec

Ms. Bertoni shared the information she has gathered so far with the members. She will contact the Department of Social Services and has a large list of areas for the community service hours. This effort is part of the high school graduation requirement of 100 hours.

Some of the community hours would be at the pool, the community gardens, and Public Works in the form of job shadowing after school.

Mr. Gawlak invited Ms. Bertoni to the department's staff meeting held on Thursdays at 11 a.m to share with the staff thoughts on this project.

11. DIRECTOR'S DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mr. Gawlak will distribute a department report to all members the following week.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Ms. K. Bertoni, seconded by Mr. Nowak

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present

Respectfully submitted,



Angela Izzo