

REVISED
MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. AT
MIXWELL PARK 1300 NOTCH ROAD, CHESHIRE, CT 06410

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

Absent: Karen Bertoni, Robert Parr, Council Liaison, Peter Talbot

Staff: John Gawlak, Director
Mark Cunningham, Highway Superintendent

Guests: Sean Kimball, Town Manager
Don Walsh, District Councilor
Barbara McWhirter, Secretary, Dog Park

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

There were no public comments

4. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES, JUNE 3, 2020

MOTION by Mr. Fracasse, seconded by Mr. Nowak

MOVED to approve and accept the minutes of June 3, 2020.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously.

5. PARKS UPDATE

Mr. Gawlak reported that all field are now open. He has been meeting regularly with Public Works Staff and complemented the staff for their efforts on getting all the fields ready. The soccer lines have been put in. Mr. Gawlak also stated that signs have

been put up regarding the restrooms being closed and the Covid-19 guidelines. The Bartlem Camp playgrounds are mostly ready, waiting for the musical panels to be installed. The new sign is up and he is planning on a ribbon ceremony in the near future to introduce to the residents to the new and improved playground. The Cheshire Park athletic field lighting upgrade has been planned. The Town has been working with Eversource to outfit the park with the new lighting. Mr. Gawlak spoke about the field damage done by a contractor working on this project at Cheshire Park and this extensive field damage will be reviewed in the coming week by a third party consultant. The lighting upgrade is scheduled for this coming Monday.

Dr. Duffy asked about getting other fields ready. Mr. Gawlak reported the Board of Education has gotten a contractor to address the reseeding and cutting the infields at all the schools and the JV varsity softball fields.

Mr. O'Donnell inquired about installing a new fence at the Linear Path at the Locke; he feels that the missing fence creates a safety issue. Mr. Cunningham said that this will be done by Cornerstone Fence.

6. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

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

7. COMMUNICATIONS

None

8. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dr. Duffy stated that his report on the ordinances and Mixville Park will be discussed under New Business.

9. OLD BUSINESS

a. Chapman Property Master Plan

Mr. Gawlak has been in contact with the consultant from Weston & Sampson. He will be discussing with the consultant options, for a public meeting. There was a suggestion to have an outside meeting via zoom to discuss various concepts with the residents. There was discussion on ways to inform the public due to the social distancing and crowd size. Mr. Kimball stated that the Town Council would like this master plan to move forward but realizes that it will not be part of the referendum this November. He is open to ideas on how to best inform the public due to the pandemic and social distancing.

Mr. Walsh suggested developing a video so that the Council Members and the public can view it online. He believes that the council members are ready to see this project go forward.

Mr. Nowak inquired about the Fireworks planned instead of the Fall Festival. Mr. Kimball responded that the fireworks are paid by the town and the contract states that the fireworks can be canceled with 30-days' notice. The date will be set once

the Governor establishes new guidelines relating to how many people can gather outdoor due to the pandemic.

- b. FY19-20 Budget**
Nothing to report

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Presentation by Dog Park Group**

Barbara McWhirter, Secretary, addressed the Commission with a proposal to purchase two Dog park gazebos to replace the damaged ones. The Group has raised \$1,820.00 and will be paying for the new gazebos.

They are seeking approval from this Commission prior to submitting the funds to the Cheshire Town Council.

- b. Mixville Park Plan**

Mr. Gawlak presented the Mixville Recreation Area Proposal. He discussed police presence for rentals. The bathrooms have been upgraded. He is proposing a field and facility rental income and using user fees for park improvements.

Town Resident, Cynthia Ruggeri, 965 Notch Road, addressed the Commission She shared the abutting residents' concerns regarding the use of the Park by non-residents, lifeguards not supervised and overall safety issues at the Park. There was discussion about security, passes to use the Park, and lack of enforcement. It was suggested that passes be purchased online. Mr. Gawlak suggested having a rental fee for residents and a higher fee for nonresidents. The members thanked Mrs. Ruggeri for her input.

- c. Parks & Recreation Ordinance Review**

Mr. Walsh read the email of a list of the 16 items about the park, sent in by a resident, dated June 12. He submitted the list as part of the record.

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

MOVED to collect data costs to have two rangers stationed at Mixville Park from August 1 to September 16 and bring the data forward to the Town Council.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Dr. Duffy tabled the discussion of the Park & Rec Ordinances until the next meeting.

Dr. Duffy discussed having a meeting on August 5. Some of the members informed the Commission they are not able to attend on August 5.

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

MOVED to cancel the meeting on August 5.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Mr. Gawlak will email all members to see if everyone is available for a meeting on August 12.

d. Begin developing the program to utilize then High School students for Community hours to help Park & Rec.

Mr. Bertoni was not in attendance to discuss this item; this will be discussed at the next meeting.

11. DIRECTOR'S DEPARTMENT REPORT

Mr. Gawlak informed the members that the Community Pool is up and running. The review process for the position of Receptionist has been narrowed down to 4 candidates. Interviews will be conducted on July 9.

There was a burglary at the pool. The Police are investigating and there will be a follow-up report.

Non-resident park field fees should include a maintenance fee. Non-resident fees should be higher than the residents' fee.

The Cheshire Park Lights are being repaired.

CYB will be providing a letter to give up the concession stand at Bartlem Park.

Tim Weed is now the full time Coordinator.

The pool liner was completed.

Weston & Sampson is conducting a full pool assessment.

The half-day camp programs are being planned for August.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Respectfully submitted,



Angela Izzo