

MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2012 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE YOUTH
CENTER, CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT

Present: Jim Nankin, Chairman, Karen Bertoni, Patrick Duffy, David
Veleber, Paul Fracasse, Ira Kushner and Mike O'Donnell

Staff Present: Bob Ceccolini

Council Liaison: Peter Talbot

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.

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 7, 2012 MEETING

MOTION: Mr. Veleber made a motion to accept the March 7, 2012 minutes.

MOVED: Mr. Fracasse seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Mr. Nankin said he wants the next meeting to be held at the town pool.

COUNCIL LIAISON

Mr. Talbott said the Council will vote next Tuesday on the town budget. There are no major changes for P&R. The pool maintainer position will be approved.

Mr. Ceccolini said the Pool Maintainer position would consist of someone checking pumps, boiler, heat, etc.

Mr. Talbott said the main duty of that position is to make sure the town isn't avoiding any warranties. Mr. Ceccolini added that would be on top of the regular duties required.

Mr. Duffy questioned if the person for the position has to have a certain certification for the HVAC and warranties? Mr. Ceccolini responded no, just keep the appropriate records.

Mr. Nankin questioned if the maintainer position would have to be open to Public Works also? Mr. Ceccolini replied yes, in case someone is qualified and wants the position.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Communications

There were no communications reported.

Pool Discussion

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission the numbers are good at the pool. The spring lessons are full. He said they have extensions for people's passes and there are a lot of new annual passes that were sold. Mr. Ceccolini said the feeling he has perceived from people is that the atmosphere is much nicer than before.

Pool Fees – Mr. Ceccolini said last year the daily fees were raised. It is suggested to go up this year on the resident passes. Almost all of the passes would go up ten percent. He noted that we have had two abnormal years for weather. He requested the P&R Commission to tentatively raise the pool fees tonight.

Mr. Nankin said he feels the rates are at the low end compared to other facilities anyway.

Mr. Ceccolini said we wouldn't be raising the fees to break even. He said the last time the fees were raised they were in effect as of July 1st.

Ms. Bertoni wanted to note that she has talked about empty nesters before. She said a married couple with no children is \$400 for two adults. Two adults shouldn't have to pay more than a family would pay.

It was then discussed that empty-nesters could take the family pass out and pay that rate instead of the married couple rate.

Ms. Bertoni also questioned if it is wise to raise the senior's prices too? They are on fixed incomes.

Mr. O'Donnell referred to the chart that was handed out regarding raising the fees in certain brackets why from the day passes down to the bottom of the page, why those rates weren't adjusted to what is being proposed? Mr. Ceccolini replied from the day passes down to the end of the page were raised last year.

Mr. Ceccolini noted it is inexpensive to have an annual pass for a family; it is like \$1.00 per day. Mr. Talbott suggested promoting business passes through the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Veleber questioned what other towns charge for rates? Mr. Nankin replied very few towns have this type of pool.

Mr. Ceccolini said a lot of towns do not require people to pay to swim.

There was a brief discussion regarding other towns compared to Cheshire and what they charge compared to Cheshire.

Mr. Duffy noted it is better to increase gradually then one big price jump and shock everyone.

MOTION: Mr. Duffy made a motion to recommend to the Council that P&R is in agreement with them to raise the rates in accordance with the proposed rate increases.

MOVED: Mr. O'Donnell seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed 5 to 2. Those opposed were Mike O'Donnell and Karen Bertoni.

Mr. Ceccolini said there was a Public Building Commission (PBC) meeting at 6:00 P.M. regarding the dehumidification at the pool.

Mr. Nankin said the PBC meetings are the first Wednesday of every month, like P&R is also on this day.

Mr. O'Donnell is P&R's liaison for the PBC meetings. He attended the meeting tonight and had the following to say about it:

Mr. O'Donnell said the statute states if you recycle any air in the pool, the facility cannot be above 60% humidity. This statute was revised in 2006. Our pool is recycling 21,000 cubic feet per minute, we cannot do that. He said they would like to bring in another unit for the outside air. The heat is up to 92 degrees. The idea is to put the unit in on the other side and turn off the recirculation of air. It is more costly to reheat the air. Mr. O'Donnell discussed the price of the heat exchanger.

Mr. Ceccolini questioned once the air leaves the bubble can we use some of that heat after exiting the building and sucking it back in? Mr. O'Donnell replied yes. We could capture 70% of the temperature that goes out.

Mr. Duffy questioned what our humidity level is now? Mr. Ceccolini replied today it is 50% humidity but it has been around 65 or 70% humidity.

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission that Michael Milone is still pursuing acquiring FEMA money for the blower.

Mr. Nankin questioned if there has been any discussion with the insurance company with our Law and Ordinance code with our insurance company?

Mr. Talbott replied that issue is with the Town Attorney.

There was a brief discussion regarding how to accomplish lowering the humidity. Mr. O'Donnell said in the colder air you will have more humidity, we have had a warm year.

Mr. Ceccolini said code is code. There is no way around or to avoid code. Mr. Ceccolini said the facility is working better but it is not up to code and that's the problem.

Ms. Bertoni wondered why Arizon didn't know that our facility wasn't up to code before this project was started.

Mr. O'Donnell said the equipment has to be ordered and installed before the bubble goes up in the fall. He said the whole area, deck, etc. has to be fewer than 60% humidity and that we are trying to get into code compliance. He said the air is very good now. The suggestion of a separate blower was discussed to increase the CFN.

Mr. Ceccolini reviewed a topic he discussed at last month's meeting. He talked about a possibility of starting a swim team, a rec travel team. He said Sheila Adams is tracking responses from the public. A survey will be in our next brochure and available on-line. We could host some of the swim meets at our facility. Sheila and Glenn from the Wallingford Y are working on this and they both have great reputations. He said he would update the Commission as soon as more information is available.

Summer Concerts

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission that the third concert is going to be Jeff Tuhey, whom you can find on You Tube.

If anyone has any more leads on sponsors, please let Mr. Ceccolini know. The concerts are scheduled for the last two Friday's (July 20 and July 27) and the first Friday in August (August 3rd).

Ms. Bertoni left the meeting at 8:00 P.M.

DOG PARK

Mr. Ceccolini said the group is close to having all the money raised. They are still trying to obtain grants.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

Mr. O'Donnell said the Spring Expo at the high school is scheduled for Saturday, April 14th at 9:00 A.M.

Mr. O'Donnell extended the Beautification's thanks to P&R for fixing the lights at Cook Hill, they look nice.

Mr. Ceccolini said he has met with Yankee Gas for the parklet for plantings and everyone was in agreement what should be done.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Park Status

Mr. Ceccolini said the fields were worked on last month. Field Day was cancelled because of the weather but almost all the projects have been done anyway.

Mr. Ceccolini said Field Saver (clay material) was put at the high school today and at two fields at Bartlem Park. It is better-quality clay. CYB contributed \$4,000. He noted that people would come in and look at our fields to check about the product.

Mr. Ceccolini said all fields at Quinnipiac, McNamara and Bartlem have been rolled. The fields are in pretty good shape to get started with the baseball/softball season. Opening day is the 29th or 30th. Soccer starts this weekend and lacrosse has already started.

Youth lacrosse does not get much time during the week on the turf field. Track gets first choice then the boys and girls lacrosse.

Recreation Programs

Mr. Ceccolini said the programs have begun. The on-line programs will begin with the summer programs.

The summer brochure will also be in the Cheshire Herald as a pull-out.

The lights on the tennis courts were turned on when it was warm and turned off when it got cold. Mr. Ceccolini said the cracks on the tennis courts were fixed again. He talked about an idea that

could happen in the future where they would move the tennis courts across the street to Bartlem Park and make the tennis courts into a parking lot for the high school to use.

Mixville Hills Land Management Plan

Mr. Ceccolini referred to the memorandum dated April 2, 2012 from Michael Milone regarding the Mixville Hills land. He would like the P&R Commission to review and approve the plan which was adopted on November 12, 2009 and has since had on-going concerns.

Mr. Ceccolini requested Commission member look over the document carefully and discuss and/or approve the Land Management Plan at next month's regularly scheduled meeting.

Mr. Nankin noted P&R has to sign off on the plan and then it goes to the Environment Commission for them to sign off too.

TABLED until the next meeting.

COMMISSIONER'S FORUM

Mr. Kushner said renovations are being done to the girl's varsity softball field. \$7,000 went towards the dug outs. The field, back stop and fencing are up to what it's supposed to be at the high school. The girl's varsity team is playing on the J.V. fields. The J.V. is playing at Bartlem. It all looks good and the dug outs look good but it is not working out the way it should be as in flooding concerns.

Mr. Fracasse, Mr. Duffy, Mr. Veleber and Mr. Nankin wished everyone a happy Easter and Passover.

Mr. Duffy said it was nice to meet Mr. Talbot. He also thanked Mr. O'Donnell for all the hard work he has been doing.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Veleber made a motion to adjourn.

MOVED: Mr. O'Donnell seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion was passed unanimously by those present. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Attest:

Claudia J. Baron, Clerk