

MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2013 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE YOUTH  
CENTER, CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT

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

Absent: Karen Bertoni

Guest Present: Cindy Kleist

**CALL TO ORDER**

Jim Nankin, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Commission Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING**

MOTION: Mr. O'Donnell made a motion to accept the March 6, 2013 minutes.

MOVED: Mr. Duffy seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**COUNCIL LIAISON**

None given.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Communications

There were no communications to report.

Pool Discussion

Mr. Nankin told the Commission the insurance company has been out and looked at the facility.

Mr. Ceccolini said it should be less money because not all the equipment was damaged this time. The diving boards, railings, and ladders are fine. The lift was taken out before the storm. The damage that took place the last time the bubble came down did not happen this time. Mr. Ceccolini said Sheila Adams read in the paper that the town wants to form a committee by the end of April and report back to the Town Council by the end of July.

*Cindy Kleist, 251 Lancaster Way, Cheshire* – Cindy told the Commission last June/July she saw an open air facility. It was a blast of hot air; like a greenhouse effect. She doesn't think this would be a good idea for the town, too hot.

Cindy talked about Kansas State which has a permanent structure. She said the structure she is referring to is made in Alberta Canada and are snow and wind protected. She said she thinks the town should have looked into this several years ago. She said she has been in a lot of structures and they do not blow down because of the tension membrane. She said you would just zip off the top and the sides. All the information is on her website.

Mr. Nankin asked Cindy to forward the information to Bob.

Mr. O'Donnell questioned if that type of structure could go up with the wall Cheshire has?

Cindy talked about the facility in MA. Mr. Nankin said MA lost their bubble because they weren't able to lower theirs.

Mr. O'Donnell said he has some concerns with zippers as they could fail in a snowstorm due to weakness points. Mr. O'Donnell said if the bubble didn't come down then the town would also have to air condition it. That is a cost to consider. He added he isn't sure a permanent structure is feasible.

Mr. Ceccolini said it is not an inflated system anymore. We wouldn't need that structure system we had anymore.

*Cindy Kleist left the meeting at 7:25 P.M.*

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission there is a modification the town is applying for with the state building code so we wouldn't have to put up the interior structure (it ripped the bubble). If the state approves it, it would be another gas back-up blower for the facility.

Mr. Nankin said it is cheaper to get the modification. Mr. Ceccolini said if the state approves it and the town puts up a bubble, it is a lesser cost.

Mr. Duffy questioned if we had another big storm, could we put the top down? Mr. Ceccolini replied yes.

Mr. Duffy questioned how P&R would get the snow off the bubble to get it back up. Mr. Ceccolini replied he didn't know; this would have to be done by hand with shoveling. It would be hard to get the snow off. He said if a big storm is coming they could lay cables across it.

Mr. O'Donnell asked if it could handle the weight of snow. Mr. Ceccolini replied it probably would.

Mr. O'Donnell said even if it takes a week to get the snow off, it is still a functioning facility.

Mr. Nankin said if we do not replace the bubble we receive a depreciated value.

Mr. Duffy suggested printing the facts in the newspaper to have people read it and understand it better.

Mr. O'Donnell asked if it is a summer only facility, what would be done with the facility in the winter. Mr. Nankin asked if you could let water freeze in the pool.

Mr. Ceccolini replied the pool would have to be winterized.

Mr. O'Donnell stated that is an additional cost.

Mr. Duffy asked what would be done with the equipment if the pool is winterized. Mr. Ceccolini said some equipment would have to be put in storage.

There was a discussion on where the kids would go. Mr. Veleber said a large chunk of the kid's season is when the pool wouldn't be open.

Mr. O'Donnell said there are hidden costs. Keep in mind that you have to transport team's everyday with practices and meets to other towns.

## **DOG PARK**

Mr. Ceccolini said there is an event in June at the future site; either June 15<sup>th</sup> or June 22<sup>nd</sup>. They have \$17,000 at this point.

Mr. Ceccolini said the Soccer Club has decided to replace the fence. It would be 400 feet of fence for the dog park. We have six pieces of fence from them already.

## **BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION**

Mr. O'Donnell said April 13<sup>th</sup> is the Business, Home and Garden show at Cheshire High School from 9 AM to 2 PM.

Mr. O'Donnell said the State came to the town and will be doing work at the Parklet. They are going to straighten the area so the fire engines can turn right; presently, it is a hard right turn. This will result in losing approximately 20 feet of the parklet.

Mr. O'Donnell reminded everyone not to plant Impatiens this year if you lost them last year due to blight. If you do decide to plant, remove three feet of soil or don't plant for three years.

Mr. Nankin asked about the tree in Cheshire Park that they found Emerald Ash Borer in. Mr. O'Donnell said they put up a purple like webbing for the larvae to stick to it and die.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Ceccolini said Kevin Simmons had his operation two weeks ago and is doing well. He will be out another three to four weeks. Sheila Adams also had her operation and is back to work.

### Park Status

Mr. Ceccolini said the park guys are going through their busy time now.

Last weekend was CYB day. The fields are in good shape because of the work that was done last fall.

Mr. Ceccolini said the two fields at Highland School need to be redone. The high school fields are good as is Bartlem. Three fields have the material down, one field, closest to Chapman farm needs the material.

### Recreation Programs

Mr. Ceccolini said the team leagues are staying off the fields. Lacrosse, soccer, baseball and softball have all started. Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission that the fields are painted every year.

Mr. Ceccolini said the spring programs have started. The deadline for theater was last Friday and only 25 kids signed up; 50 kids are needed to run the program. Highland School and Dodd Middle School also does plays and do not charge the kids for it. He said he doesn't know if this will be the end of the theater or not.

Mr. Ceccolini said the fine arts are moving to the library. Arts Place is listed under the library. The control is being moved from P&R to the library starting July 1. P&R is keeping the theater.

### **COMMISSIONER'S FORUM**

Mr. Kushner wished everyone a happy spring.

Mr. Fracasse said he hoped everyone had a nice Easter.

### **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 8:05 P.M.

Attest:

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Claudia J. Baron, Clerk  
P&Rmar13