

MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 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

Staff Present: Bob Ceccolini

Council Liaison Present: Peter Talbot

Absent: Karen Bertoni

CALL TO ORDER

Jim Nankin, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 April 3, 2013 minutes.

MOVED: Mr. Fracasse seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by those present.

COUNCIL LIAISON

Mr. Talbot said there is nothing Parks & Recreation related and only discussed the passing of the state budget. He said they are not going to have to use the reserve funds for the budget. The pilot program has been restored as well as casino money. Cheshire has money in reserves. Also, the Council is going to push the topic of bulky waste in the fall.

Mr. Nankin asked if the town is doing well with the recycling. Mr. Talbot responded not as well as they had hoped. It is going as they projected but they hoped it would be above that.

Mr. Duffy asked if it is because not everyone is using the recycling program. Mr. Talbot said people still need education on what is allowed and not allowed. He suggested possibly a

lamine picture on the inside of the bucket cover showing the do's and don'ts of what can be put in the recycling bin.

Mr. Ceccolini said there are signs for trash, plastic and cans along the linear trail and in all the town parks. He said wire bins with clear plastic bins inside of them are at the games from the lacrosse teams.

Mr. Veleber said if you make it convenient for people to use they will divide the recyclables and do it.

Mr. Talbot informed the Commission the Committee meets again tomorrow night regarding the pool. He said there are no negative people on the Committee they all are positive.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Pool Discussion

Mr. Ceccolini said there were 13 people on the Committee and two more were added. He said Sheila, Vin (BOE) and George No. (PW) are also on the Committee. The Committee decided to look for a consultant. Sheila recommended John McIlhargy formerly from USA Swimming now working for Mythic Sports. The price to hire the consultant is \$15,000. John McIlhargy has been attending the meetings. He has suggested putting a wall up on the other side of the facility to support the bubble. He has given the Committee options to think about. He has give 12 options and they are narrowing it down to three.

Some of the options include: a bubble with modifications; moving the building; an open air structure or permanent building; a fabric-type covering that looks like a bubble but isn't a bubble and a summer-only facility.

The Committee is going to modify the list tomorrow. They want to go to the Council in mid to late July with their suggestions.

Mr. Ceccolini said the Town did get a modification approval from the State of CT. He said we asked them to modify it and not put the cable system back in. We could lower the structure and take the equipment out and figure out how to get the snow off.

Mr. Nankin stated we have lost two bubbles on the internal support system we have. Mr. Ceccolini said the cables would never go back up.

Mr. Ceccolini said if the town decides the bubble route then it could go up quickly and we wouldn't have to go to a referendum. Mr. Ceccolini said he thinks they will try for some sort of building.

Mr. O'Donnell stated the fear is losing the facility for the winter sports.

Mr. Talbot said the word from the Council is the bubble is not going up in the Fall.

Mr. Ceccolini said it is preliminary to tell the public anything because the Committee hasn't made the decision yet.

Mr. O'Donnell asked if putting the bubble back up with a new support system is on the list. Mr. Ceccolini responded yes, it is on the list.

Communications

Mr. Ceccolini said he has two communications for benches. David and Lisa Hartman, 460 Chestnut Street, attended the public hearing on the trail expansion. They were excited about the trail and wanted to be involved so they would like to donate a bench when the trail is finished.

The other bench request is from John Oddie, Hamden. His granddaughter died of leukemia and he requested a bench on the trail, the existing trail.

MOTION: Mr. O'Donnell made a motion to accept the applications for the benches on the Linear trail.

MOVED: Mr. Kushner seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Mr. Nankin said he received two communications. The first one is from Toby Hitt; he received a call from him. He was going to write a letter but made the phone call instead. He was complaining about the people and kids being all over the place on the trail and he can't ride his bike. Mr. Nankin said he has not received a letter yet.

Mr. Nankin also said he has received a couple of phone calls regarding the Medal of Honor Park near the Yellow House at Bartlem Park. The plaque was not in great shape before the parade. The plaque's location is in a concrete block. Some veterans were offended. The plaque is weathered and parts of it are missing and/or broken off. Mr. Nankin said he has received phone calls and there was a bit of tension.

Mr. Veleber questioned if it is more disrespectful leaving the plaque there than taking it out?
Mr. Nankin replied yes.

Mr. Ceccolini said he ordered a new plaque today but it will take a couple of weeks to arrive here.

Mr. Nankin said he would report back to the people that called and tell them a resolution is in the process.

Building Emergency Plan

Mr. Ceccolini handed out a pamphlet from the Cheshire Police Department regarding Hostile Intruder Advisory to the Commission members. Mr. Ceccolini said he would try and have someone come and talk to the Commission regarding the issue.

DOG PARK

Mr. Ceccolini said the Dog Park has a major event on June 15th, the canine carnival. He said the Committee is close in raising the money. The fencing was replaced at Quinnipiac so the dog park received fencing.

Mr. Ceccolini said P&R will help put up the fence with assistance from PW for the parking lot area. Paving bricks will be used as a memorial for the park. Mr. Ceccolini said once the fence goes up they can start using the park. The entrance is at Arts Place. At Arts Place there are three metal sculptors, the parking lot will be behind them. The park would be open from dawn to dusk.

Mr. Ceccolini said Public Works mows it once a month. He said P&R would mow it and do it twice a month.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

Mr. Nankin informed Mr. O'Donnell that the Cheshire Citizen had the wrong time for the meeting last week in their paper.

Mr. O'Donnell had the following to discuss from the meeting:

The vines and poison ivy will strangle the junipers and plants at Cheshire Park.

Mr. O'Donnell discussed the trees by Bartlem by the softball fields. He said the Commission wants to know if P&R has ever fertilized them and said they should be fertilized.

Mr. O'Donnell said the Commission wanted to know if there has been any contact from anyone regarding the legacy trees. Mr. Ceccolini said very little contact.

Mr. O'Donnell requested if Mr. Ceccolini could put something up on the website to possibly spark some interest. He said if it is listed where there are open spots and lists of where they are people might be interested.

Mr. O'Donnell had a map of Maple Avenue that he showed the Commission of what the town is taking out at the park. Could some of the plants be saved?

Mr. Ceccolini replied probably not; it would be very difficult. He said they would park the trucks everywhere while doing that project. Mr. Ceccolini said we would lose approximately 20 feet of the park and said eventually they will have a smaller park there. Don Nolte of PW has been informing Paul.

Mr. Ceccolini said they are redoing the sidewalks along Town Hall. Paul will have to redo the lawns because of the trucks will be parked there to do the sidewalks. They are installing putting pavers in instead of bricks.

Mr. Ceccolini talked about the Morin Property Plan. He said he would make copies for everyone and send them out. The parcel is near Old Lane Road. They are asking for a management plan for the parcel. Mr. Ceccolini said the town cleared the trail so you can enter from the parking lot and go up to the ridge line.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Ceccolini said he has submitted a capital budget. He said there are a few things on the list for now and a few for a few years out: The expansion of the trail; Mixville spillway and dam; Mixville dredging; park improvements; building repairs for pool (tile marking); replacing of playground equipment; vehicle replacement; tennis court replacement at high school; and tennis court replacement at Cheshire Park.

Park Status

Mr. Ceccolini said the concerts this summer are the Cheshire Palooza, Jimmy Buffet cover band and the Eagles cover band.

Mr. Ceccolini said he has a few sponsors. He is looking for \$3,000 for a major sponsor to go onto the banner.

Mr. Veleber questioned what is going on at the playground at Cheshire Park. Mr. Ceccolini said the playground at Cheshire Park is one of the playgrounds P&R wants to replace. He said they may try to find a better location at Bartlem.

Recreation Programs

Mr. Ceccolini said the leagues and spring activities are winding down. He said there will be a few jamborees at Bartlem Park for the next few weeks.

COMMISSIONER'S FORUM

Mr. Fracasse said the parade was very good.

Mr. Ceccolini said every group that signed up showed up.

Mr. Duffy said the parade was fun.

Mr. Nankin said the Veteran's were upset that the politicians were marching before the Veterans.

Mr. O'Donnell said the benches at Cheshire Park are nice and the parade was great.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Duffy 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 8:17 P.M.

Attest:

Claudia J. Baron, Clerk

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