

MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2013 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE  
YOUTH CENTER, CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT

Present: Jim Nankin, Chairman, Patrick Duffy, Paul Fracasse and Mike  
O'Donnell

Staff Present: Bob Ceccolini

Absent: Karen Bertoni, Dave Veleber and Ira Kushner

**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.

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission that the October meeting location has to be changed and cannot be held at the Youth Center due to the Author's signing scheduled. It was decided to move the October meeting location to the parks garage.

**MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING**

MOTION: Mr. O'Donnell made a motion to accept the July 10, 2013 minutes.

MOVED: Mr. Fracasse seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**COUNCIL LIAISON**

None given

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Communications

There weren't any communications to report.

Pool

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission the facility will close on October 12, 2013. The staff will stay on until October 18, 2013 and then would be laid off. Sheila Adams will remain working because she is the lead person with contractors and phone calls. The pool will not be shut down and emptied because it is not an outdoor pool. Instead the pool will be minimally operating with a heating of 50 degrees at the most. Sheila will be responsible for checking the drains on a daily basis. Natural gas would be the back-up to keep it going if power is lost.

The hope is to have the tension membrane approved in November at the election. If the membrane doesn't pass we would have to ask for a bubble without any support system. This winter the facility will be closed.

Friends of the Cheshire Pool printed a pamphlet that explained the proposed tension membrane at the Town Council meeting (attached).

Mr. Ceccolini said Tom Purtell and Kevin Wetmore did a great job at the meeting as did the Pool Committee. Mr. Ceccolini said a moderate proposal is what is being requested. Now, it comes down to whether the public wants it or not.

Mr. Duffy questioned if heat would collect in the facility during the summer. Mr. O'Donnell replied it will because it is hot in the summer. Mr. O'Donnell said he thinks the membrane will draw people away during the summer but it will be great in the winter.

Mr. Ceccolini said the ends of the structure seem to be translucent. Mr. O'Donnell said it has to be lit in the daytime. Mr. Nankin said it has to be lit so we can see if someone is at the bottom of the pool.

Mr. Ceccolini said the Council could raise the rates. He said it's better to talk about it now so it won't be a surprise on everyone when or if it does happen.

Mr. O'Donnell asked how long it would take to put the membrane up. Mr. Ceccolini replied probably a couple of weeks to a month. The impact is not large if it isn't completed in June because the kids are still in school. It would be great if it went up in the summer and then we moved right into the fall season.

Mr. O'Donnell suggested getting the facility up and running smoothly before raising any rates.

Mr. Nankin commented all of this is speculation right now. Mr. Duffy agreed and said we don't know what we will end up with.

Mr. Ceccolini said this could leave P&R and become a separate Pool Commission.

Moran Property Discussion

Mr. Ceccolini said this was already discussed. It was a mistake and should have been removed from the agenda.

**DOG PARK**

The Commission discussed the rules of the dog park (attached).

Mr. Ceccolini said there will be an ordinance. If you break the ordinance you are breaking the law and will be given a ticket. He said No. 2 “Dogs must be healthy and have all current vaccinations” is not verifiable because of the current vaccinations part; there isn’t a way to prove that.

Mr. Duffy suggested speaking to a veterinarian. He suggested putting a band on the dog’s collar to enter the park. If there is no band then someone has to go there and fine the owner a fee.

Mr. O’Donnell suggested talking to the Town Clerk and changing the ordinance when they get their yearly license in the town.

Mr. Duffy suggested the park being open to Cheshire residents only. Also suggested for the 1<sup>st</sup> offense - 30 days of not being allowed in; 2<sup>nd</sup> offense – 60 days of no entry and 3<sup>rd</sup> offense you can’t use the park.

Mr. Ceccolini said this goes back to No. 1 of the rules: “Dogs must display a valid license and rabies tag”. He questioned what about the people from out of town. Mr. Ceccolini suggested everyone pay \$10.00 to register the dog for the year. There would have to be a charge so the system isn’t abused.

Mr. O’Donnell said he doesn’t think the town can make it a Cheshire only facility.

Mr. Nankin said he doesn’t want the town to be responsible if a dog goes after another dog. He said he doesn’t think these will become ordinances. He suggested posting the rules at the dog park.

After further discussion it was decided to leave No. 2 in the rules.

**MOTION:** Mr. O'Donnell made a motion to accept the proposed rules and forward them to the Town Manager and then to the Town Council. Also, an addition of Animal Control and their phone number to the bottom of said rules.

**MOVED:** Mr. Duffy seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed unanimously by those present.

### **BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION**

Mr. O'Donnell said pavers are going to be installed all around the vaults at the park and there will be decoration cement balls in front of the vaults.

Mr. Ceccolini said there won't be cement balls but planters instead.

Mr. Nankin asked if this has been cleared by the Police Department.

Mr. Ceccolini said they are almost the same looking as the ones on West Main Street.

Mr. Duffy said coming out of the Dunkin Donuts on West Main Street you cannot see up the hill because of the planter that is blocking the view. Mr. Ceccolini said he would have someone check that out.

Mr. Ceccolini referred to the vaults and the plantings and said the snow has to be able to be removed and gain access to the vaults. They lowered the vaults to be flush with the surface.

Mr. O'Donnell said they are doing that project in about a month.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Ceccolini said the work has been done at end of Gateway; they did very little disruption. It has been completed. Paul can pull his truck off the road when you come down Maple Avenue similar to Ives Row.

All sidewalks are coming out and pavers are being installed. Hopefully it will be completed this Fall.

Park Status

Bartlem had a huge day with the Fall Festival. There were a little bit of brown areas on the grass but the lawn took the event well. The fireworks were moved up a bit because of the rain but the whole day was successful. We had to clean up the parking lot for school on Monday and we shouldn't have had to do that. The carnival was packed with families.

Mr. O'Donnell commented the car show was phenomenal.

Mr. Ceccolini said Quinnipiac had a low calcium count so lime had to be spread on it. The Soccer Club helps pay for the cost. Chris Bingman met us out there and paid half the cost.

Recreation Programs

The Fall program brochures are out. Soccer has started and men's over 30 basketball has started. The camps in the middle weeks in the summer were heavy, beginning and end were light. The most popular camps are at Bartlem.

Mr. Ceccolini said we had a good concert series this summer; Cheshire Palooza was fun. Mr. Nankin replied the Jimmy Buffet concert was excellent. He noted the ground was wet in front of the stage for the concert.

Mr. O'Donnell stated the in between was too long of a duration for the Cheshire Palooza.

Mr. Ceccolini said the Chamber of Commerce is working on the sponsors for next year.

**COMMISSIONER'S FORUM**

Mr. Fracasse wished everyone a good Fall.

Mr. Duffy said the sidewalks in town look nice.

Mr. O'Donnell said it was a great summer series and is hoping it will be better next year.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Mr. O'Donnell made a motion to adjourn.

**MOVED:** Mr. Fracasse seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** The motion was passed unanimously by those present. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Attest:

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Claudia J. Baron, Clerk  
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