

MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2013 AT 7:00 P.M
AT THE YOUTH CENTER, CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT

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

Staff Present: Bob Ceccolini

Absent: Karen Bertoni

CALL TO ORDER

Jim Nankin, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Commission Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING

MOTION: Mr. O'Donnell made a motion to accept the October 2, 2013 minutes.

MOVED: Mr. Duffy seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by those present.

COUNCIL LIAISON

Mr. Talbot was not in attendance for the meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Communications

Mr. Nankin did not have any communications to share.

Pool

Mr. Nankin said the pool people did a great job and should be commended for all their hard work. He said the pool membrane passed at the election and we will have a pool. Mr. Nankin wanted it noted that P&R wants to be involved in everything related to the pool.

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission the town wants to finish the RFP by next Thursday. There is a PBC (Public Building Commission) meeting tomorrow night and the RFP is on the agenda; Sheila Adams will attend the meeting.

Mr. Ceccolini said there is a lot of old equipment: cables, blowers, zipper that connects the old bubble, angle iron, poles, etc. that he wants to find out if they have any value to the items to see if someone wants to buy it from the town.

Mr. Veleber asked how much the blowers cost. Mr. Ceccolini said between \$70,000 and \$100,000 and we have three blowers.

Mr. Nankin noted the membrane would have a whole new heating system.

Mr. Veleber asked if there would be a dehumidification problem with the membrane as there was with the previous bubbles.

Mr. Nankin replied it has to be dehumidified but we would not be re-circulating air to keep the membrane up.

Mr. O'Donnell added the new facility still has to be heated and there has to be dehumidification.

Mr. Ceccolini said he hopes the whole process would start in the spring and if possible, open up by the end of June. He said he would know more in a month. He said the structure is similar to the Denver Airport structure. He said he would get more information at next month's meeting.

Mr. Ceccolini noted it was a great effort by the Friends of the Pool and the Council Pool Committee. They did a great service to the town.

Mr. Nankin said people want to know if groups would come forward and help raise money. He said Bob will communicate with them regarding that. Hopefully, they would continue their efforts.

Mr. Ceccolini said Matt Lavine and Cathy Maloney played a huge part in the success of the election. Mr. O'Donnell said they went door-to-door and canvassed neighborhoods to support the facility.

Mr. Ceccolini said money would be saved in areas where we had to do certain things for the bubble which we don't have to do for the membrane such as the cost of taking it down and putting it up.

Mr. Ceccolini said the deck stays the same. Mr. Duffy asked how much of the deck would be covered. Mr. Ceccolini replied, the whole thing. Mr. Duffy asked if there would be enough room for chairs. Mr. Nankin said there should be room for chairs but the footprint would be different.

Mr. Nankin said hopefully there will be better marketing for the facility as it is a 12-month a year deal.

Recreation Person of the Year

Mr. Nankin informed the Commission the Recreation Person of the Year needs to be discussed at the next meeting. Please think of some people you may want nominated and discuss it next month.

DOG PARK

Mr. Ceccolini said the fence was delivered early last week and he and Kevin put the front section up together. Saturday, there were 35 volunteers from the dog park group who put the rest of the fencing together. He informed the Commission part of the fencing came from McNamara, part from Quinnipiac and part from Kentucky. Kevin installed the gate today. The only thing left is the parking lot; Public Works started it today. The parking lot will be milled and could possibly be done next week. The soft opening for the park is this fall with the grand opening being in the spring. He said we received \$11,000 out of the \$22,000 they raised and we will get a sign and waste receptacles. There will be 13 parking spots and two handicap parking spaces in the parking lot.

Mr. Duffy said the fence looks great.

Mr. Ceccolini added the group may put a bench on the outside of the park with the money they received from the John Martin Memorial Fund.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

Mr. O'Donnell informed the Commission he did not attend the meeting this morning.

Mr. Ceccolini had a few updates that he wanted to share. He said they are getting rid of the whiskey barrels. If any flowers would be planted, it would be like the planters on West Main

Street. Two planters are from the gas company for the center parklet. He said the gas company is installing a fourth vault. They will pay for the improvements and make a donation to the Park Gift Fund. Gateway Park is completed; the curbs were installed last Friday.

Mr. Nankin asked if P&R has anything to do with the sidewalks in the center of town. Mr. Ceccolini replied we will have to remove the snow. The sprinkler system there is very old and not a good one so it may have to be replaced because the trucks have been driving over it. Otherwise, we are not involved in that project.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Park Status

Mr. Ceccolini said fall sports are winding down. This is the last week for junior football. Mr. O'Donnell added the 7-9 year olds go until next Wednesday if they win this coming Saturday.

Mr. Ceccolini said soccer has a couple of weekends left to their season. Fall baseball has been over for a couple of weeks now. CYB and volunteers have been at McNamara doing three infields of the four infields. The fields will be brand new for the spring season. Two fields would be sod. They left grass on the other field.

CYB is putting in some of the money as we are too.

Mr. Ceccolini said we are doing final mowing and leaf removals now. The guys are going to blow the pool lines out and pack them with hay bales.

Recreation Programs

Mr. Ceccolini said winter information will be coming out soon and people can register online; the online registration is easier for the office staff.

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission that he went to a meeting last Friday with the Police Department, BOE, Pool Committee, Town Manager's Office and Youth Services regarding the special permits for the Town. Anything affecting these departments would have to be a special permit.

Mr. Nankin asked if there would be fees attached to the special permits. Mr. Ceccolini replied there would be some fees for the profit permits and they would be waived for the non-profit. It will be ready to go in a few months and be part of the Town's system for permits.

Mr. O'Donnell questioned if there was any reason why Little League can't sell signs and put them on the fence at McNamara. Mr. Ceccolini said it was denied by the P&Z Commission and the Town Council didn't like it.

Mr. Nankin said there is permission during a game to put the signs up but when the game is over, they have to come down.

Mr. Kushner said in the softball tournaments they used banners that came down when the game was over; the banners traveled with the team.

Mr. Nankin said he heard people want to sell ads at the pool but until the regulations are changed we can't put the signs up.

COMMISSIONER'S FORUM

Mr. Kushner said he's glad the Town has a pool.

Mr. Duffy congratulated Mr. Nankin on recently becoming a grandfather and a Happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

Mr. Fracasse said the West Main Streetscape is done.

Mr. Nankin said Michael Milone sent out a memo regarding West Main and that it was funded by three small town economic grants. He discussed the memo.

Mr. O'Donnell said the new bench at the linear park looks nice and congratulations to Jim Nankin.

Mr. Veleber said he's glad we have a pool and Congratulations.

Mr. Nankin said he wants to think about two things for the Commission in the future: a parks tour for Commission members and sponsors for the summer concerts.

Mr. Nankin handed out the projected meeting dates for 2014 and said the Commission will vote on them in the December meeting. He said he will check the dates for any holidays that may occur on the dates projected.

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 8:00 P.M.

Attest:

Claudia J. Baron, Clerk
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