

MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2014 AT 7:00 P.M  
AT THE YOUTH CENTER, CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT

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

Staff Present: Bob Ceccolini

Council Liaison Present: Peter Talbot

Absent: Dave Veleber and Karen Bertoni

Guests Present: Cindy Forlenzo, Cheshire Dog Park, Inc. and her son  
Fern Burelle, Cheshire Dog Park, Inc.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Jim Nankin, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:08 P.M.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Commission Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

Recreation Person of the Year

Mr. Nankin addressed Ms. Forlenza and Ms. Burelle and thanked them for all their patience and perseverance for the beginning and the completion of the Cheshire Dog Park. Mr. Nankin said he did not realize how long it was going to take but that it was a great idea from the beginning. He said your willingness has an added an asset to the Town and we thank you very much. There was a round of applause for Ms. Forlenza and Ms. Burelle.

Ms. Burelle noted the idea was Mr. Ceccolini's idea and they (Cheshire Dog Park, Inc.) ran with the idea.

Mr. Nankin further explained P&R tries to recognize a Recreation Person of the Year but it is not always they nominate a person or group every year. He said three times P&R has recognized a group and this year it goes to Cheshire Dog Park, Inc. Mr. Nankin presented the ladies with a plaque to honor the award. A group photo with Cindy, Fern and the Commission members and Peter Talbot from the Town Council was taken.

Ms. Forlenza and Ms. Burelle thanked everyone for the award and their kind words.

## MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MEETING

MOTION: Mr. Duffy made a motion to accept the December, 2013 minutes.

MOVED: Mr. Fracasse seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by those present.

## COUNCIL LIAISON

Mr. Talbot said last night the Town had a meeting to go over the pre-budget planning. Dr. Florio gave them a sense of what he wants as did Michael Milone. Mario Panagrosso gave a presentation regarding the re-evaluations. Mr. Nankin noted the values of homes are going down.

Mr. Talbot said alot of money is generated from fees. He talked about the additional staff that will be needed. One person would be in the Planning Office and an additional Fire Marshal.

He noted not all the budget increase is due to the all-day kindergarten.

The last thing discussed at the meeting was the GIS system. This system is Cheshire-based. It is available now on the website. He noted it is incredible. People can search addresses, names and topography of your property. The system is in the middle of the page on the Town website.

Mr. Talbot said there is an opt-out option available to you if you send a letter to Mario Panagrosso's office and request your personal information be taken off.

Mr. Nankin inquired if there are any major cutbacks coming?

Mr. Talbot said equipment is part of the capital budget. There was a pool discussion regarding the dehumidification systems, the Town is still waiting for the check regarding the pool.

Mr. Ceccolini said FEMA covered some of the deductibles.

Mr. Talbot said there was a preliminary discussion to maybe put some of the money into a pool surplus fund instead of a general fund.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

### Pool Discussion

Mr. Nankin referred to the article in the Cheshire Herald regarding heating the pool to keep from causing any damage. He asked if there were any repercussions to that article.

Mr. Ceccolini replied the pool is covered and the water is being heated to a maximum of 50 degrees to melt the snow. He informed the Commission a sump pump was used on the cover to get rid of the water and it ended up being about 30,000 gallons pumped off the cover. The 16 deck drains are not protected by anything. He said we have poured ½ gallon of anti-freeze for the drains. The facility was never meant to be an exposed pool in the winter. We are keeping the pumps/filters going.

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission that Sheila is out 4 to 6 weeks recovering from her surgery. He said he, Brian and Kevin check on it daily.

RFP's are open tomorrow at 2:00 P.M.

Mr. Nankin informed the Commission that Mike O'Donnell is the person representing P&R at future meetings.

Mr. O'Donnell said the next meeting is Tuesday to review all the RFP's.

### Election of Officers

Mr. Duffy nominated Mr. Nankin as Chairman for the P&R Commission.

Mr. Fracasse seconded the nomination.

Mr. Nankin closed the nominations.

MOTION: Mr. Duffy made a motion that Jim Nankin be Chairman of the P&R Commission.

MOVED: Mr. Fracasse seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Mr. Nankin nominated Patrick Duffy for Vice Chairman of the P&R Commission.

Mr. O'Donnell seconded the nomination.

Mr. Nankin closed the nominations.

**MOTION:** Mr. Nankin made a motion to elect Patrick Duffy as the Vice Chairman for the P&R Commission.

**MOVED:** Mr. O'Donnell seconded the motion.

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

Mr. O'Donnell nominated Paul Fracasse for Secretary of the P&R Commission.

Mr. Nankin seconded the nomination.

Mr. Nankin closed the nominations.

**MOTION:** Mr. O'Donnell made a motion to elect Paul Fracasse as the Secretary for the P&R Commission.

**MOVED:** Nankin seconded the motion.

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

## **DOG PARK**

Mr. Ceccolini said the kiosk, sign and the bricks will be coming. He said Tony Drozd has re-welded the supports for the fence and did a great job.

Mr. Ceccolini said there are 3 containers to put the poop in. He said money needs to be spent for signs, etc.

The bowling event for the dog park is next month. The group would like to add obstacles at the park for dogs down the road.

Mr. Ceccolini said the park is a big plus for the Town of Cheshire.

## **BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION**

Mr. O'Donnell said the vaults are done in the center of town. Mr. Ceccolini said it limits the plantings around there. It all looks nice.

Mr. Ceccolini said there will be a new sign board outside of the Youth Center for the sports and it will be electronic. It can be controlled from inside the building.

Mr. O'Donnell informed the Commission the Cheshire Home and Garden Show is Saturday, April 12 at CHS. The Town Beautification Commission is the sponsor again.

Mr. O'Donnell said the Beautification Commission wants to do something nice for Paul because he retired. They are going to put an editorial in the Cheshire Herald.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### Park Status

Mr. Ceccolini said they are pursuing CYB to see if they will pursue the ten acres at Cheshire Park. He said there are declining numbers in baseball and he isn't sure if they are interested in it anymore. The lacrosse numbers have gone up. Mr. Ceccolini said he hopes to get the property to expand. He said it could be a nice area for lacrosse or football; football has grown.

### Recreation Programs

Mr. Ceccolini said the programs are starting next week. Mr. Ceccolini said as far as the summer theater, they are not going to have big productions anymore. It is a lot of work to bring the money in and it isn't worth it for the amount of kids that sign up. The high school is no longer available to hold the theaters because of the asbestos abatement.

### Budget Status

Mr. Ceccolini said the pool budget will be adjusted. It will go up because it is open a month more. There are four more weeks of rentals, birthday parties and lessons. We have to staff and run the facility for four additional weeks. He said they will present four different sets of rates to the Council.

Mr. Nankin suggested looking at food truck/snacks in the future. He said the facility is now more like a pool club year round.

Mr. Ceccolini noted this is a major undertaking. Mr. Nankin said the truck could pull up to the fence but suggests they look into a food vendor.

Mr. O'Donnell said the people who vendor in the parking lot make money off the concessions. There was a discussion regarding vendors and non-vendors. Mr. Nankin suggested looking into this matter very seriously.

Mr. Ceccolini said the MADD walk-a-thon is set for April 5<sup>th</sup>. It is based in this room and then a 5K walk outside. P&R will support them and the PD is involved.

The MS walk is on Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Nankin said if anyone has conflict of interest with anything to let Mr. Ceccolini know.

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission the need of sponsors for the concerts. Everyone please think of some sponsors and send them our way.

### **COMMISSIONER'S FORUM**

Mr. Talbot informed the Commission of Paul Fracasse and Karen Bertoni's terms are expiring at the end of January. Mr. Fracasse said he wants to come back. Mr. Talbot said we can't have any more than five from the same party, right now it is 5-2.

Mr. Fracasse wanted to wish everyone a happy new year.

Mr. Duffy wished everyone a happy new year. Mr. Duffy thanked Mr. O'Donnell for all his hard work he is going to be doing for P&R.

Mr. Nankin thanked Mr. O'Donnell also.

### **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 8:37 P.M.

Attest:

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Claudia J. Baron, Clerk  
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