

MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2014 AT 7:00 P.M
AT THE YOUTH CENTER, CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT

Present: Jim Nankin, Chairman, Patrick Duffy, Mike O'Donnell, Paul Fracasse, Karen Bertoni, Dave Veleber and Dan Nowak

Staff Present: Bob Ceccolini

Council Liaison Present: Peter Talbot

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 JANUARY MEETING

MOTION: Mr. Veleber made a motion to accept the January 8, 2014 minutes.

MOVED: Mr. O'Donnell seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by those present.

COUNCIL LIAISON

Mr. Talbot informed the Commission the Pool Committee appeared before P&Z (Planning & Zoning). He said hopefully the height issue will be behind us. He said the budget starts next week for the Council; on the 18th P&R will be in for their budget.

Mr. Talbot said he attended the Doggie Bowl Fundraiser, which was fun.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Communications

Mr. Nankin said he had no communications to share.

Mr. Ceccolini said he had a few communications regarding bench requests. He has received four bench requests and would like the Commission to give a motion to approve.

The first bench is from Jean McSweet for Donald Gode.

The second bench is from Carol West & Karen Conrad requesting a bench for Karla Conrad & Richard Conrad with Karl & Marjorie Haller.

The third bench is from Richard Walesky for Robert "Bob" Walesky.

The fourth bench is for Brendan McQuade from Shaun McQuade.

Mr. Nankin questioned if we need more benches on the lower section?

Mr. Ceccolini said P&R is replacing the old, wood ones. Mr. Ceccolini said MMI (Milone & MacBroom, Inc.) are the designers for the new part of the trail. They have included sight amenities and have already contacted him. Their benches will go in on the northern part of the trail and fit right into place. Mr. Ceccolini said each bench costs \$1,500.

At 7:15 P.M. Patrick Duffy arrived.

Mr. Nankin requested a motion to raise the cost of future benches to \$1,600. These four benches are prior to the new amount he would like from now on.

MOTION: Mr. O'Donnell made a motion for all new custom benches to be a cost of \$1,600.

MOVED: Mr. Veleber seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by all those present.

Mr. Veleber asked if any of the wooden benches were dedicated benches. Mr. Ceccolini replied no.

Mr. Veleber asked if at some point we could run out of space for all future benches. Mr. Ceccolini replied on the lower part we are running out. On the northern part from Cornwall to Southington we would have plenty of room.

Mr. O'Donnell questioned if a dedicated bench was damaged, who would replace it? Mr. Ceccolini replied P&R would replace the bench.

MOTION: Mr. Veleber made a motion to approve the four bench requests.

MOVED: Mr. O'Donnell seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Pool Discussion

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission the height of the building may be only 39 feet; therefore, it may not require a zone requirement.

Mr. Nankin added it depends on which way the beams go.

Mr. Ceccolini said the Pool Committee went to the Town Council with their selection of the "The Signature" (name of the company). They selected a company to be the Project Manager also. The Pool Committee voted to not have the pool open for the summer; this also has to go to the Council.

Mr. Talbot reaffirmed that the Committee is recommending canceling summer at the pool. Mr. Talbot raised concerns about the humidity of the building in the summer and wondered what that would bring.

Mr. Ceccolini said in the summer the doors would be open while people are swimming. There is no impact at all. They are still deciding if we need HVAC inside.

Mr. Talbot said the only problem is that construction could affect the pool. He said it is upsetting they want to close the facility for the summer.

Mr. Ceccolini said nothing can be done until they hire the Project Manager and the Signature Co. If its 41 feet then P&Z still has to be involved.

Mr. Nowak asked if the town would be losing revenue if we shut the facility down for the summer. Mr. Ceccolini said we would only be losing somewhere around \$200,000.

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission if the facility is closed for the summer, staff will be doing lessons at Maxville and life guards too. There is a possibility of this happening if we close for the summer. We would have a back-up plan for not having the pool open.

Mr. Duffy asked if we could do the Mixville activities for town residents only. Mr. Ceccolini replied no, we could charge non-residents more but we can't send them to P&R for a pass.

Mr. Ceccolini said dredging would be in the fall.

Mr. Ceccolini said there have been questions regarding an air handling system in the building. He said we did not need it for the bubble. The PBC (Public Building Commission) and the Town would probably ask for a modification. It is not a pressurized building anymore; we can open doors if it is too hot.

Mr. Nowak asked about where the bubble went when it was taken down. Mr. Ceccolini said it's gone, was transported by a truck and left the town.

Mr. Fracasse asked what the roof is made up of. Mr. Nankin replied fabric.

Open Space Review

Mr. Nankin said the Ketchum Property is self-explanatory. Both properties are tied into the ridge. It is available for passive recreation. He added he had no problems with the Management Plan at all.

Mr. O'Donnell said to get to it you have to drive up along the private driveway.

Mr. Veleber said Route 68 is not Mountain Road as it is written in the report.

Mr. O'Donnell asked how many access points are there to the ridge. Mr. Ceccolini replied you could probably walk in anywhere on Tress Road.

The comments from P&R are how to get access to the property.

MOTION: Mr. O'Donnell made a motion to accept the Management Plan for the Ketchum Property with amendment of access.

MOVED: Ms. Bertoni seconded the motion.

VOTE: The vote passed unanimously by those present.

Mr. Nankin said there is no usage plan or management plan attached for the Halperin Property. Therefore, the Halperin Property is **TABLED** until it is brought back with the correct information needed.

DOG PARK

Mr. Ceccolini said the official opening is later this year. The Committee spent money on the dog waste containers and bags. People are using the bags to pick up after their dogs.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

Mr. O'Donnell said there is no report today; he missed the meeting because of his job.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Park Status

Mr. Ceccolini said Dale Boucher from Southington was hired to take Paul's place. He is a good fit for the position.

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission that P&R gets called out when PW does for a storm if they are short on staff or it is a very large storm. PW crew leaders in pick-up trucks do some of our cul-de-sacs. Our guys are happy with the change.

Mr. Ceccolini said our crew painted the office in Finance and are just finishing the dog cage area at the pound. The result is really nice.

Recreation Programs

Mr. Ceccolini said basketball is down to the play offs. The championship game is this weekend. The time is 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM because it is one game an hour. He said we have received a lot of positive comments regarding the basketball programs.

The spring brochures are out in households.

Mr. Ceccolini said the summer series concerts will happen again.

Budget Status

Mr. Ceccolini said P&R goes before the Council on March 18. Everything stays the same. He said if we close the pool for the summer, we would have to take money out and add money to the P&R budget for Mixville. This would be determined in the next few weeks.

Mr. Ceccolini said P&R has received money from the CT Community Foundation for our adaptive program. The next meeting is April 2nd.

Mr. O'Donnell asked if a temporary ice rink could be installed in one of the parks. Mr. Ceccolini said this was done 15 years ago on the tennis court.

Mr. O'Donnell said a lot more kids are skating now.

Mr. Nankin said when it was done it was crowded. Mr. O'Donnell said parents do not want their kids on the ponds, they want them skating safe. Mr. O'Donnell said we could use a portable unit also.

Mr. Ceccolini said we would have to keep it really simple. He said he would look into it.

COMMISSIONER'S FORUM

Ms. Bertoni said she wanted to recognize Mr. Ceccolini for the dog park. You should feel proud. Mr. Ceccolini said the volunteers really pulled it off.

Mr. O'Donnell welcomed Dan Nowak to the group. Happy birthday to Paul Fracasse.

Mr. Nowak said he appreciates the meeting and everyone and hopes to give something back to the community. He discussed his positions at his former jobs.

Mr. Nowak asked about the road race in April. Mr. Ceccolini said the town does not run the event. It is a half marathon. It's a beautiful event but could get too big for Cheshire in the future.

Mr. Nankin said P&R did a commendable job on plowing his street this year, better than when PW does the street.

ADJOURNMENT

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

MOVED: Mr. Duffy seconded the motion.

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

Attest:

Claudia J. Baron, Clerk
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