

MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2014 AT 7:00 P.M
AT THE YOUTH CENTER, CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT

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

Staff Present: Bob Ceccolini

Absent: Patrick Duffy and Dave Veleber

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

Mr. Nankin had a correction to Page 3, 3rd paragraph up from the bottom of the page. Change *Maxville* to Mixville.

MOTION: Mr. O'Donnell made a motion to accept the March, 2014 minutes with the one change.

MOVED: Ms. Bertoni seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by those present.

COUNCIL LIAISON

Mr. Talbott is absent; therefore, no report is given.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Halperin Management Plan

Ms. Bertoni said the plan talks about maintaining the property. Mr. Ceccolini said there is money now to maintain the property; the Town has a budget. He noted that Public Works did a nice job at the area at the end of Jarvis where you can walk on nice trails.

MOTION: Mr. O'Donnell made a motion to accept the Halperin Property Management Plan.

MOVED: Mr. Fracasse seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Mr. O'Donnell questioned who would be responsible for the sidewalks. Mr. Ceccolini replied P&R.

Mr. Nowak questioned what the biggest expense would be. Mr. Ceccolini said the biggest expense would be setting up the parking lot. He informed the Commission the Council funded it in their capital budget.

Communications

Mr. Nankin said the only communications he received were a few verbal ones asking if we could move the pool along.

Pool Discussion

Mr. Nankin told the Commission the pool facility will be open this summer. Mr. Ceccolini said the time frame it will be open is from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Construction is anticipated to begin the day after Labor Day. The official date it will open is May 4, 2014. Mr. Ceccolini said Sheila Adams attends all the meetings regarding the facility. Mr. Ceccolini said the Committee asked a lot of questions at the meeting regarding Arcadis, Signature and keeping it under budget.

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission two full-time staff will be back on Monday, the other two people the following Monday.

The cover comes off this Friday, Monday it will be drained and power washed. It takes two days to drain the pool. The gutters would be cleaned. It takes approximately three days to fill it. The liner is in good shape (age is approximately 5 years), they last 15 years.

Mr. Ceccolini said Sheila is putting together the seasonal staff. He said it looks like the kiddies' pool will not be under the structure that would be built. It can be moved or it has to come out. It can't stay because the beam goes through it.

Mr. Ceccolini said the pool will be closed from September 1 to January 1, 2015. They are planning on being done around Thanksgiving. He said we would need a month to empty it, clean it and get it ready. The target date is January 2, 2015 for opening with the new structure in place.

Mr. O'Donnell questioned what Signature is doing. Mr. Ceccolini replied that Signature is responsible for the structure. HVAC, pumping and electrical is separate. He informed the Commission the height issue is on hold now.

Mr. Nankin asked Mr. Ceccolini when the dredging at Mixville is taking place. Mr. Ceccolini said it will begin shortly and be in the back pond.

Mr. Nankin asked if there is any silt in the big pond. Mr. Ceccolini replied no. They are going to take out 18,500 cubic yards of sediment. He said he has to review the plan on the sediment removal and will talk about it at next month's meeting. The company involved said it would not affect the fishing derby. Mr. Ceccolini said PW will remove the dirt when it is dry.

Mr. Ceccolini said next month's meeting is the televised meeting and Sheila will be there. Mr. Nankin said the town is looking to have Commission's do one televised meeting per year. He said he wants to use the televised meeting as a benefit to us.

The following is a tack list the Commission discussed regarding topics for next month's televised meeting:

- Sheila pool
- Elizabeth P&R programs
- Bob/Kevin condition of parks/trail
- Jim dredging/summer concerts
- Sandi programs/camps
- Bob Quinnipiac/McNamara/Cheshire Park/playgrounds (parks report)
- Kevin organic fertilizing/parade update

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission the new intern would be introduced at the meeting.

Mr. Ceccolini said the town is working on a policy form from the Town Manager's Office. Anyone that comes to the town with a big event, the PD and Town has to approve it first.

Mr. Nankin said the meeting is in Council Chambers and he expects full attendance.

DOG PARK

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission there is going to be a photo contest in September and judges are needed. Ms. Bertoni and Mr. Fracasse offered to be judges for the event.

Mr. Ceccolini said the dog park group is planning to buy equipment for dogs to run through such as tunnels and hoops. Animal Control wants to buy one of the benches for people to sit and watch their dogs.

Mr. Ceccolini said the Dog Park Committee is still an active committee which meets once a month.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

Mr. O'Donnell referred to the parklet at Saint Peter's and said the lights are still out there.

Mr. O'Donnell wanted to know if it was possible to put garbage cans by the vaults. Mr. Ceccolini said nothing could block the vaults and there is not enough room for them.

Mr. O'Donnell questioned the status of the Junipers up by Stony Hill Road. Mr. Ceccolini replied they started clearing them out already.

Mr. O'Donnell informed the Commission that next Saturday is the Home Show from 9 AM through the afternoon.

Mr. O'Donnell asked if a garbage can could be installed by the Ball & Socket. People are just putting their garbage into the planters that are there because of waiting at the bus stop.

Mr. Ceccolini said there is a garbage can at the bus stop on the green. He said it has to be of high quality and has to be emptied.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Park Status

Mr. Ceccolini said the grounds are quite wet and people are doing their best to try and stay off the wet areas. The Lacrosse teams were practicing out in the parking lot yesterday. Mr. Ceccolini said all the teams were able to use the turf field and share it.

Mr. Ceccolini said there was good cooperation with the youth groups and the high school teams. Lining of the fields has started and McNamara was worked on extensively. Quinnipiac has the best drained fields.

Mr. Ceccolini said the women's teams for softball are forming and coming to us. He said P&R is hoping to get a slow-pitch league which would require them to have a wooden bat. He added the cricket men are also coming in. The playground and skate park were crowded yesterday.

Recreation Programs

Mr. Ceccolini said the spring programs are starting now and we anticipate a good summer session. The MADD walk-a-thon is this weekend. The PD and P&R are helping to promote the event. It is not too late to go online and purchase a T-shirt or make a donation for the event. Mr. Ceccolini said by 4:00 P.M. today they reached 98 percent of their goal.

Budget Status

Mr. Ceccolini said the only major change in the budget is the full-time maintainer at the pool building year-round. He said he has not heard on the final budget yet.

Mr. O'Donnell asked if we could move the playground at Cheshire Park. Mr. Ceccolini replied yes, we could cut into the hill where the stage used to be.

Mr. O'Donnell said the pavilion location would be great so parents can see their kids while they are also watching the baseball games.

Mr. O'Donnell discussed the back stop at the high school. Mr. Ceccolini said it was a leaner anyway and the back stop is fixable.

Mr. Ceccolini said P&R is always looking for volunteers for the parade. You could volunteer and be in charge of that division.

COMMISSIONER'S FORUM

Mr. O'Donnell congratulated Mr. Ceccolini regarding his son training to be a Cheshire police officer.

Mr. Fracasse wished everyone a happy spring.

Mr. Nowak said his friend is a leader to the boy scouts in town. The group needs community hours and wanted to know how they go about that. Mr. Nankin said they would have to see Bob Ceccolini regarding that and he will direct them what to do.

Mr. Ceccolini said last year P&R had 7 or 8 Eagle Scout projects. He said they work with us all the time.

Mr. Nowak said he can do press releases, etc. for P&R because it is in his employment field and he would be glad to help.

Mr. Ceccolini said the next meeting is the televised meeting on May 7, 2014. There will be an e-mail sent out regarding things to discuss and what time it is expected to arrive for the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

MOVED: Mr. Nowak seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion was passed unanimously by those present. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Attest:

Claudia J. Baron, Clerk
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