

MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2014 AT 7:00 P.M
AT THE YOUTH CENTER, CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT

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

Staff Present: Bob Ceccolini

Council Present: Peter Talbot

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. Talbot told the Commission if you go to the Video on Demand on the Town website you can now hear May's meeting.

MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING

MOTION: Mr. O'Donnell made a motion to accept the May, 2014 minutes.

MOVED: Mr. Nowak seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Mr. Nankin felt last month's meeting was a good one and that people are now aware what P&R does.

COUNCIL LIAISON

Mr. Talbot discussed the capital budget and said it would finish up around the first part of August.

He said he attended the Canine Carnival. It was the 2nd grand re-opening of the dog park. The ceremony was to begin at 1:45 P.M. but at 1:35 P.M. there was a car accident to the entrance of the dog park which delayed the opening by more than an hour.

Mr. Nankin said the accident was listed in the Waterbury Republican American.

Mr. Talbot said he wanted to thank Mr. O'Donnell and Mr. Ceccolini for helping the traffic flowing until the PD got there. No one could come in or out of Arts Place.

Mr. Ceccolini said after the accident (before the arrival of the Police Department) no one wanted to move their cars. He said he called the park guys to help.

Mr. Ceccolini said the event was a huge success.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Communications

Mr. Nankin said there are a couple of requests for benches.

Mr. Ceccolini said the first is for Joseph Fagan, who was 31 and worked here at the P&R and had lymphoma. His family is requesting a bench in his honor.

The second is a memorial bench for Josephine Kowalski from the Suburban Garden Club of Cheshire. They would like the bench on the new section of the linear trail close to West Main Street.

Mr. Ceccolini said there are several benches for the northern part of the linear trail. We are holding one for Keith Gale and have two more benches. This request will be the fourth bench.

MOTION: Mr. Veleber made a motion to accept the above bench requests.

MOVED: Mr. O'Donnell seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Pool Discussion

Mr. Nankin said there was a vote to continue negotiations with the contractor. They are going to move forward with the RFP with the Architect to go forward.

Mr. Ceccolini said there are 197 new households who have purchased passes; 494 are pass holders; 289 are of the current pass holders are extensions. The total is 763 pass holders; 486 are households; there are 1,257 people on passes; 356 day passes were sold with 158 people in enrollment and lessons. Mr. Ceccolini said he expects it to increase when school is out; the dollar days of June are coming too.

Mr. Nankin questioned if we are pro rating as the season goes on. Mr. Ceccolini responded that we hold rates to a certain point then pro rate it.

Mr. Veleber asked if there is any interest in Mixville from residents. Mr. Ceccolini said the pool is open in the summer.

Mr. Nankin asked if they have started dredging yet. Mr. Ceccolini replied not yet.

Televised Meeting Discussion

Mr. Ceccolini said he thought the televised meeting went well. Mr. Nankin said we accomplished what we set out to do.

Mr. Nowak said P&R needs to get the word out more.

DOG PARK

Mr. Ceccolini said the Dog Park Committee earned \$2,300 at the carnival in brick sales. People saw the bricks for the first time and liked them. The area for the bricks is 3 feet by 10 feet wide. Mr. Ceccolini said there are equipment pieces on the hill for the dogs. Benches are needed and two more have been ordered.

Mr. Ceccolini said people want a place to sit out of the sun; a gazebo was suggested at the park. People also are requesting water for their canines. The water is being looked into as well as the benches. The little dog park stayed open on Sunday and there were a lot of dogs in there.

Mr. Duffy asked if people are picking up after their dogs. Mr. Ceccolini replied yes, people have been cleaning up and keeping the dog park clean.

Karen Bertoni arrived at 7:30 P.M.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

Mr. O'Donnell said the televised town Beautification Commission meeting was today and they used our version from our meeting (P&R) to do theirs.

Mr. O'Donnell said two trees on Cook Hill died and need to be removed.

There was a discussion regarding the Isle of Refuge. Mr. Ceccolini said the State is suggesting a new lighting system.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Operating and Capital Budget

Mr. Ceccolini said the budget is close to being expended. He said two guys retired and the snow budget ruined the over time budget. He said we had a good year last year. He said we got what we were looking for in this year's budget. In the Capital budget Cheshire Park, Quinnipiac Park and McNamara Park are getting new playgrounds. He added he would like to find another spot at Cheshire Park for the playground, not behind the tennis courts.

Mr. Ceccolini asked the Commission members if anyone wants to be involved in the playgrounds to let him know.

There was a discussion among Commission members about where the location of the playground should be at Cheshire Park. Mr. Ceccolini said there are three options for the playground at Cheshire Park: 1. the old concert location; 2. the ball field closest to the bathrooms, straight ahead if cleared and leveled; and, 3. in the very north end near the parking lot which would require a fence.

Mr. Duffy questioned if there is a policy that you are responsible for your children. Mr. Ceccolini said he would look into it but believes there is an ordinance for children under the age of 12.

Mr. O'Donnell said if the play ground is put in the middle it would be the perfect location at Cheshire Park.

Mr. Ceccolini said P&R is looking for a small mason dump truck the replace the rack body truck bought in 1988. It is time to replace the truck.

Mr. Ceccolini added that Mixville dam stayed in the budget.

Parks

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission the tennis tournament is this weekend. The tournament is no longer at Choate, Cheshire Academy or Copper Valley. The event attracts approximately 600 people. The tennis tournament sponsors scholarships for high school seniors.

Mr. Ceccolini said the Lacrosse Jamboree is on Sunday. He said to avoid Route 10 and go around. They are playing at Bartlem and there are close to 50 teams.

Mr. Ceccolini said cricket has begun.

Cheryl Corey's retirement party is on June 25, 2014 at 4:30 P.M. at the Waverly.
Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission of an injury at the playground in Bartlem Park. An 8-year old girl broke her arm when her arm got stuck in the circular ladder.

Mr. Ceccolini said P&R has a full crew. The baseball fields look great. He said he's getting good reviews on the fields for Andrew Brown and Andrew Prairie who have been working on the fields. We have 7 new employees and for the kids who did not get jobs with us they were referred to Public Works.

Recreation Programs

Mr. Ceccolini said people are signing up for the summer programs now; camps are good. Some of our programs will be hurt because of the all-day kindergarten starting with the new school year. We could lose a number of classes with the approved all-day kindergarten.

Mr. O'Donnell said there used to be an opening to walk onto the field for wheel chairs, etc at Cheshire Park. It has been filled in. Handicap people have to step over it to get to the field. Mr. Ceccolini said he would inform the guy that filled in the gaps that one shouldn't have been filled in.

Mr. Ceccolini said P&R is happy with all the new guys on the team now. Jim K. has been with us for three weeks and is doing well.

COMMISSIONER'S FORUM

Mr. O'Donnell said good job on the parade.

Mr. Veleber said also good job on the parade and the parks all look nice.

Mr. Duffy gave credit to Mr. O'Donnell for helping with the accident since he was left out of the paper.

Mr. Nowak said he and his daughter were playing tennis. Two families were there. The adults were playing tennis and the kids were using their scooters and skate boards on the tennis courts at Cheshire Park. They said there wasn't a sign to say that they can't do that.

Mr. Nowak also mentioned on the Town of Cheshire website Ira Kushner is still listed as a Commission member and not himself. Mr. Nankin said he already addressed this issue.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Duffy made a motion to adjourn.

MOVED: Ms. Bertoni seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion was passed unanimously by those present. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

Attest:

Claudia J. Baron, Clerk
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