

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

Present: Jim Nankin, Chairman, Mike O'Donnell, Dave Veleber and Dan Nowak

Staff Present: Bob Ceccolini

Absent: Patrick Duffy, Paul Fracasse and Karen Bertoni

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.

MINUTES OF THE JUNE MEETING

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

MOVED: Mr. O'Donnell seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by those present.

COUNCIL LIAISON

Mr. Talbot said nothing is new for P&R since the last meeting. The Council hasn't had the budget meetings yet and there has been very little talk regarding the pool.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Communications

Mr. Nankin said he didn't have any communications to report.

Pool Discussion

Mr. Nankin said they still have to decide who is doing what regarding the pool facility. He added they still don't have a design fabricator. There will be a recommendation for the Town Council on Tuesday.

Mr. Ceccolini added the PBC (Public Building Commission) has a meeting on Monday they hope to have a decision at the end of the meeting to present to the Council on Tuesday.

Mr. Ceccolini said the pool facility brought in approximately \$9,000 this past weekend for daily fees and passes. The weather is hot outside and people are swimming. Dollar days took place last week when school ended.

MOTION: Mr. O'Donnell made a motion to cancel the P&R August meeting.

MOVED: Mr. Veleber seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by those present.

DOG PARK

Mr. Ceccolini said the status of the dog park hasn't changed since last month's meeting. He did say the Committee wants to get a water source at the park and a shade unit like a gazebo for people before the Committee turns their money over to the town for the park gift fund.

Mr. Ceccolini said we have two benches; one metal bench is in honor of Don Gode at the Dog Park and the other bench would be at Animal Control.

Mr. Ceccolini said there were a few minor problems. A couple of weeks ago there was another owner with an aggressive dog. The park polices itself and he left with his dog without any problems. It has been running great so far. People have been going after work at 5:00 P.M. during the week or early morning/late afternoon on the weekends.

Mr. Veleber asked if Arts Place has had any problems with the dog park. Mr. Ceccolini said there have been no known problems. People have been using the bathrooms at Arts Place and may have never walked into Arts Place before and can see what it's all about now.

Mr. O'Donnell asked how many parking spaces are needed in addition to the parking lot there now. Mr. Ceccolini said about 6-8 more spaces are planned to be installed.

Mr. Nankin asked what the monthly expense is for P&R maintaining the dog park. Mr. Ceccolini said the guys go in and mow once a week. They said they are picking up more tennis balls than dog waste. He added there is a minimal amount of weekly work at the park.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

Mr. O'Donnell informed the Commission he did not attend the meeting this morning because he had to go to work. They will not have another meeting until September.

Mr. Ceccolini said he learned from Jerry Sitko that the lights are out at the south end and the dead trees have been removed. Mr. Ceccolini said he talked to Cheshire Nursery and they said to wait for new trees until the fall. The trees died because of the harsh winter.

Mr. O'Donnell said the location of the lights are at the corner of Cook Hill. It is believed that kids keep vandalizing the lights.

Mr. Veleber referred to the area across from the Masonic Temple before Route 10. He said people took down a pine tree and put up four new trees. He wanted to know who was responsible for that.

Mr. O'Donnell said there are two Iron Wood trees and two flowering trees. Beautification is in charge of the trees but P&R maintains them.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Operating and Capital Budget

Mr. Ceccolini said P&R got the go ahead to spend their money. Sheila has been buying bracelets and chlorine for the pool facility. He said P&R got the funding we were looking for. The Capital budget goes before the Town Council on July 15th. He said we are asking for a mason dump truck and three new playgrounds for Quinnipiac, Cheshire Park and MacNamara. Cheshire Park has the worst playground.

Mr. O'Donnell asked when the last time was that the playgrounds were replaced. Mr. Ceccolini replied approximately 23 years ago. He added that most of them are safe but there are new safety issues with the playgrounds. Bolts are different now; on the old playscapes (which would be replaced) kids can hit their heads on them. There are openings and bolts that can catch drawstrings from kids clothing. With the newer playgrounds there is a surface over the bolts so it is smooth, less likely for children to get hurt.

Mr. Ceccolini said the new equipment would be more handicap accessible also.

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission the playground for Cheshire Park would probably be at the north end. There would be a fence around it and we could channel people around the parking lot not on the tennis court side. Mr. O'Donnell added it gets a little mushy by the tennis courts. Mr. Ceccolini said the driest part is by Route 10. The playgrounds for MacNamara and Quinnipiac would be in the same locations.

Mr. Ceccolini said he would like musical wind chimes with mallets installed at the playground. It makes a nice sound and the kids can use the mallets to make the sound. The best place for these would be at Cheshire Park where there aren't a lot of neighbors. If there is enough money he would like to have this installed at the park.

Parks

Mr. Ceccolini said he attended a meeting last week with George Nowantee and the DOT regarding the linear trail. It entailed a sequence or timeline for the trail. The State will take care of the section by Jarvis. The piece between West Main Street and Jarvis is the towns. The parking lot would be in on Jarvis near Peck Lane. This would probably be done by 2016 and the Dalton piece by 2017.

Mr. O'Donnell asked about Hawk's Crossing. He asked if there was an alternate to the Hawk's crossing on West Main Street. Mr. Ceccolini said Hawk's Crossing is the way to go according to the State. Mr. O'Donnell said you can look at the system online.

Mr. Ceccolini said soccer is done for the year but baseball is still going on because of playoffs, the Reds and the travel team. There is a private camp, basketball camp and a soccer camp at Quinnipiac. There is also a tri-athlon camp that Doug Levins runs that.

Mr. Ceccolini said the two guys that work for P&R are doing great. He added that Cheryl's party was great; over 95 people signed up to be there.

Recreation Programs

Mr. Ceccolini said he hopes it will be a good summer. The Mixville life guards are doing great and Mixville itself has been fine. There were a couple of vandal problems there recently but everything is fine.

COMMISSIONER'S FORUM

Mr. O'Donnell said happy and safe 4th of July to everyone.

Mr. Veleber said the same and that Cheryl's party was a nice event. He told Mr. Ceccolini he did a great job on his speech to Cheryl.

Mr. Novak said a woman asked him if the public water fountain could be fixed at the playscape. Mr. Ceccolini said parts were ordered already a couple of weeks ago.

Mr. Nowak said someone told him that a lifeguard at Mixville plays the guitar but does so while there are children in the water; therefore, he isn't watching them. Mr. Ceccolini told Mr. Nowak the next time something comes across to him like this to not wait for the next P&R meeting and to call him immediately. This cannot wait.

Mr. Nowak asked Mr. Ceccolini what P&R does with Roaring Brook. He frequents there with his kids and feels it is under used. Mr. Ceccolini replied crews walk the trail and do basic clean-up. He said there is a Watch Dog Group that keeps an eye on it.

Mr. Nankin said we don't promote it. There isn't enough parking to have alot of people there. Mr. Ceccolini said the town website would eventually have a virtual tour of all the parks.

Mr. Nankin suggested having a park tour in the fall. They have not been done in a long time. Mr. Ceccolini thought this was a good idea.

ADJOURNMENT

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

MOVED: Mr. Veleber 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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