

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

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

Staff Present: Bob Ceccolini

Absent: Patrick Duffy

**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 OCTOBER MEETING**

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

MOVED: Mr. Veleber seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**COUNCIL LIAISON**

Mr. Talbot is absent from the meeting.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Communications

Mr. Nankin informed the Commission the Exchange Club is having a breakfast on November 24, 2014 at 7:15 A.M at Elim Park. It is the Monday before Thanksgiving. Mr. Timothy Palmbeck is the speaker from the University of New Haven.

Mr. Nowak may attend to represent Mr. Nankin.

### Pool Discussion

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission that the pool is now closed. The cover is over the pool. This year, tarps were purchased to cover the entire deck in hopes of preventing water problems because the deck is not made to be an outdoor deck. The staff has been furloughed except for Sheila. Sheila has been taking care of lessons at Elim Park and phone calls.

Mr. Ceccolini said the plans for the new structure are in Cheshire but the PBC (Public Building Commission) hasn't met yet, it is on hold. An optimistic outlook would be starting the work in March and opening late June. If things are delayed we could lose next summer also.

Mr. O'Donnell asked if they tested the holes in the ledge. Mr. Ceccolini responded what they have dug up they can use instead of blasting.

*Karen Bertoni arrived at 7:20 P.M.*

### Rec Person of the Year

Mr. Nankin reminded the Commission members that when they are thinking of someone to discuss again the person cannot be a paid town employee. This is for outstanding volunteerism. He said this would be discussed more thoroughly in the December meeting.

## **BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION**

Mr. O'Donnell said the Beautification Commission is considering the beauty spot to be the sign for Cheshire Park where the white stones are. He also said the Commission wants to emphasize that Cheshire is the Bedding Plant Capital of CT and putting a sign near the Cheshire Park sign stating that.

Mr. Ceccolini said the soccer crew wanted to put signs on the fence for their game and the P&Z said no. Mr. O'Donnell said they couldn't do the signs at the high school for football either.

Mr. Nankin said he received a letter dated October 7, 2014 from Rob Hammerman regarding his wife, Linda, who passed away on October 1, 2014 from cancer. Their family along with Linda often walked along the trail near Higgins Road and he is requesting a memorial bench with a plaque on it for her on the trail. In the letter he states the obituary asks if anyone wants to give donations to send them to P&R for the bench in her memory.

**MOTION:** Mr. O'Donnell made a motion to accept the request for a memorial bench for Linda Hammerman, along the linear trail.

**MOVED:** Ms. Bertoni seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** The vote passed unanimously by those present.

Mr. Nankin asked if the donations are being tracked. Mr. Ceccolini replied yes, P&R are tracking any donations that come in for Linda's name.

Mr. O'Donnell asked if there spots available near Higgins where they are requesting. Mr. Ceccolini replied yes.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### Capital Budget

Mr. Ceccolini said the truck from last year has arrived and the white pick-up truck went to an auction. The mason dump truck is in the process of being ordered. He noted the open space from the referendum was approved.

### Dog Park

Mr. Ceccolini said the dog park is well used. There was one incident recently when someone brought little kids into the dog park and they were holding the dog toys up in the air causing the dogs to have to jump up to get the toys. The people there were not comfortable telling the adults with the children not to do that, it was against the rules.

### Parks Update

Mr. Ceccolini said Cheshire Park came out good. He said the smallest field at MacNamara, Field 3, was worked on. The crew took sod out of the infield, leveled and graded it. It will be a new infield next year.

### Recreation Update

Mr. Ceccolini said 14 families attended the trunk or treat event for Halloween this year. The event was not as big as he had hoped it would be. The Police Department was present.

Mr. Nowak informed Mr. Ceccolini CHS did a trunk or treat on Halloween night also.

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission the Congregational Church would like us to change our tree lighting date next year to coincide with their fair.

Mr. Ceccolini said the sign board proposals have come in. They are in the price range of \$15,000 to \$18,000. He said the Town needs to order the sign, hire a mason and build the platform to put the sign on.

The messages on the board would change every 10 to 12 seconds.

Steve Greenwood used his drone on Roaring Brook and came in to download it onto Mr. Ceccolini's computer.

Mr. Ceccolini said he nominated Mr. Nankin for the State-wide Recreational Award. He will be going to Mohegan Sun's Convention Center to receive his award. Anyone can attend to support Jim and his accomplishment.

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission kids have come in and purchased passes to park at Bartlem Park. He said they did put notices on kid's cars that they were illegally parked and would soon get ticketed. He said P&R has sold 12 passes. Today, there are no illegally parked cars.

## **COMMISSIONER'S FORUM**

Mr. Nowak said if anyone needs any press releases or public relations to please see him and he would help.

Mr. Fracasse showed the Dog Park calendar and said the calendar came out nice.

Mr. O'Donnell congratulated Mr. Nankin and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Bertoni said congratulations to Mr. Nankin. She suggested everyone get together for the upcoming holidays.

Mr. Nankin said he would like to see some of the Commission members at Mohegan Sun and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**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  
P&RNov14.doc