

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2014, AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE
YOUTH CENTER, SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410.**

Present

Chairman James Nankin; Vice Chairman Dr. Patrick Duffy; Commission Members Karen Bertoni, Paul Fracasse, Dan Nowak, Mike O' Donnell, David Veleber.
Staff: Robert Ceccolini, Parks and Rec Director

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Nankin called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Group Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, NOVEMBER 5, 2014

MOTION by Mr. Veleber; seconded by Mr. O'Donnell.

MOVED to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 5, 2014 subject to corrections, additions, deletions.

VOTE The motion passed 6-0-1; Duffy abstained.

4. COUNCIL LIAISON – PETER TALBOT

Councilor Talbot congratulated Chairman Nankin on receiving the State Recreational Award...and congratulated Director Ceccolini on being named "Cheshire Employee of the Year." He said both awards are well deserved.

Mr. Talbot extended an invitation to Park and Rec Commissioners to attend the Holiday Party on December 18th, 5-7 p.m. in Council Chambers.

**5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – JAMES NANKIN
COMMUNICATIONS – None**

POOL DISCUSSION - Director Ceccolini informed the commission that Sheila Adams was attending a PBC pool subcommittee meeting at Town Hall, and would report, via test message, decisions made at the meeting. Mr. Ceccolini reported that swim lessons being held by Ms. Adams are ongoing and doing well at the Elim Park Pool. Work on the roof project at the community pool is completed.

Mr. Nankin commented on the PBC pool committee "not being in a rush with this project" and asked how much pressure the Council can put on this committee.

In response, Councilor Talbot stated that people are contacting Council members and they want this project completed. Following the last Council meeting the Councilors were receiving many e mails from "Friends of the Pool" group. Council is looking for updates, is asking questions, and right now things are going back and forth between the

general contractor and Arizon. The message to the Town Manager is clear...things are taking too long, get the firm number for the pool project, and move the project forward faster.

It was noted by Mr. Ceccolini that there are many factors involved, i.e. working things out between Arizon and Arcadis which is taking more time than expected. He has the sense there does not seem to be an urgency on the part of the committee.

Mr. Talbot advised that the Council has not seen firm numbers for the pool project, nor has the Council seen a design which is required before firm numbers can be determined. One big question is how far behind the project actually will be. He said Arcadis and Arizon are back and forth with changes. Once all changes are finalized the Town will get a firm number and timetable for the project. The Council will be putting pressure on the PBC committee to move things forward more quickly.

Once the design is completed, Mr. Ceccolini explained that Arizon must look at their numbers, and another concern is having enough money to cover the cost of the project.

The commission received an informational text from Ms. Adams which stated the pool project could come in under budget, and the facility would be turned over to the Town on September 6, 2015.

With this information, Mr. Ceccolini stated that it looks like we will be using Mixville Park for next summer and continue with swim lessons at the Elim Park pool.

Mr. Nankin commented on the pool project requiring "air handling" and the fact that equipment will be needed. He noted this air handling would be required for about 2 weeks in the spring and 2 weeks in the fall.

In that regard, Mr. Ceccolini advised that, if the project goes over budget, there will be items removed from the project, and the "air handling" could be one of them.

REC PERSON OF THE YEAR - The Commissioners discussed nominations for Rec Person of the Year, and following discussion there was a unanimous decision on the recipient of this annual award. The name of the honoree will be announced at the January 2015 meeting.

6. BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION – MIKE O'DONNELL (no report)

7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DOG PARK - Mr. Ceccolini reported that the dog park is a center of activity; due to muddy conditions at the entrance, stones will be installed; 2 wood benches have been donated, 1 honoring Don Gode and 1 from the John Martin Foundation. There have been some issues at the dog park involving people coming with children, kids interacting with the dogs, with minor problems taking place. There will be a sign posted

at the dog park stating *“anyone uncomfortable with confronting others, get the car license number and inform the Parks and Rec Department.”*

Mr. Ceccolini pointed out that the dog park is a self policing facility and people must use common sense, and the park closes at dusk. Many surrounding towns either have or are building a dog park, and Mr. Ceccolini expects the activity at the Cheshire Dog Park will decrease.

PARKS UPDATE - Mr. Ceccolini stated that there is trail work going on, including trying to get a fence rebuilt on the lower ¼ mile of the trail due to the serious drop off into the wetlands. The old fence must be replaced; there is lumber and a contractor ready; AT&T has fiber optic lines at this location and issues with the line should be resolved this week. If this line is cut there is a \$6000 fine per minute imposed. One recommendation is to call PURA and advise the agency of this situation.

There was a meeting with Milone and MacBroom about signage on the north part of the trail, and it will mirror what is on the existing 3 miles. Mr. Ceccolini pointed out that every intersection along the trail has 10+ signs with different messages; some are outdated, faded, etc.; and these signs will be replaced shortly so there is uniformity of signage.

Mr. Nankin suggested consideration of a “stop sign” on Shepard Avenue (Hamden) where the road intersects the trail, as it is a dangerous area when cars turn right onto Shepard Avenue.

Community Sign Board at Youth Center - \$10,000 was received from the Lions Club for this sign. It will be a lit sign (LED lights) and there is adequate power to operate the sign.

The Town parks have been used up to the last few weeks; a private football youth club rented part of the lighted area of Cheshire Park; Men’s soccer is using one of the fields; youth football season is over.

RECREATION UPDATE - The Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held on the Town Green (Congregational Church) on Sunday, December 7th, starting at 5:45 p.m.; 6 p.m. Santa arrives on a fire truck; Junior Women’s Club will serve refreshments. At the request of the Congregational Church this ceremony will be held on a Saturday next year (and subsequent years) in conjunction with the Church’s fair event. The 30 foot tree is decorated by Town employees and a private vendor who donates his time and his lift truck. Every few years the tree is trimmed to keep it no more than 30 feet tall.

Youth Basketball – season starts on December 6th; sign-ups are taking place now; Men’s basketball starts next week; Girl’s basketball teams go up to 8th grade as there were not enough 9th graders to form teams.

Snow Removal – Parks and Rec crew coordinates this work with the PW crew.

COMMISSIONER'S FORUM

Commissioner Nowak offered congratulations to Mr. Nankin and Mr. Ceccolini on their awards, and wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Commissioner Duffy reported that Mr. Ceccolini was inducted into the Branford Hall of Fame, and offered congratulations to Mr. Ceccolini and Mr. Nankin on their awards. He reported that the State Recreation event was well done, and he was impressed with the congeniality and cooperation between the many town recreation departments represented at the event. Dr. Duffy wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Commissioner Fracasse congratulated Mr. Nankin and Mr. Ceccolini on their awards, and wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Commissioner O'Donnell wished everyone a Happy Holiday, and congratulated Mr. Nankin and Mr. Ceccolini on their awards.

Commissioner Veleber wished everyone a Happy Holiday, and congratulated Mr. Nankin and Mr. Ceccolini on their awards.

Commissioner Bertoni expressed wishes for a Happy Holiday and congratulations to Mr. Nankin and Mr. Ceccolini on their awards.

Chairman Nankin thanked the Commissioners for their kind works and congratulations, and wished all a Happy Holiday.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, January 7, 2015.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Fracasse; seconded by Ms. Bertoni.

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk