

MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M
AT THE YOUTH CENTER, CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT

Present: Patrick Duffy Vice Chairman, Paul Fracasse, Mike O'Donnell and Dan Nowak

Staff Present: Bob Ceccolini

Absent: Jim Nankin – Chairman, Karen Bertoni

Council Present: Peter Talbot

CALL TO ORDER

Patrick Duffy, Vice-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

MOTION: Mr. Fracasse made a motion to accept the March, 2015 minutes.

MOVED: Mr. Nowak seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by those present.

COUNCIL LIAISON

Mr. Talbot said the Council is busy with the budget. He informed the Commission there was a public hearing last night and some of the public spoke in favor of the budget. He said the Council should be voting on it on April 14. He said P&R budget is nothing but a maintenance budget and they would probably get what they asked for.

Mr. Talbot said Chief Dreyfus of the CPD is asking for three deputies and a mechanic for PW. Social Services are also asking for increased hours for their staff. The Water Pollution Control asked for an electrician so all total there are eight positions being requested even though there are not eight listed here.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Communications

Mr. Duffy said there were no communications to share.

Pool Discussion

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission that Sheila Adams had an operation and would be out for several weeks. She gave Bob an update. On March 19 a meeting was held and everything is on schedule. The air handler unit was taken by Arizon because it does not meet the code and they have to provide the Town with a blower.

Mr. Ceccolini said the cover was removed from the pool last week. The wind has blown water from the cover into the pool. The cover had to be cut in pieces and removed, it was very heavy to do so. Mr. Ceccolini noted the cover would never be used again. He said they are waiting for the arrival of the workers which should be mid-April. He informed the Commission the foundation work is first. The steel has been ordered and the tension membrane fabric has been ordered also. The locker rooms, benches and wood work have been done. The lobby floor, locker room floors, shower and walls will be professionally done.

He said the roof has been repaired but the walls under the roof have not been done. He said the boiler has been tripping and they are wondering if it is the company that has been doing the energy projects may have something to do with that. It is being looked into.

Mr. Ceccolini said when the pool is not open they are asking for the Council to approve lifeguards at Mixville seven days a week; June until Labor Day. He added hopefully, the Council will allow it.

Mr. Nowak asked what the time frame is. Mr. Ceccolini replied we are still at Elim Park until Mixville opens. Elim would still be mid-April until June.

Mr. Duffy questioned if lessons would be taught at Mixville, a little difficult to see in the water. Mr. Ceccolini replied yes, lessons would be at Mixville. The beach has been cleaned up and the dredging is complete. Everything there is PW property now.

Mr. Duffy questioned if the geese guy is still at Mixville. Mr. Ceccolini replied yes, he has already started.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

Mr. O'Donnell informed the Commission the Library gardens would be torn up and the Garden Club celebrating 100 years would help with the landscaping in the front and sides of the Library. He added that the perennials would be taken care of certain times of the year.

Mr. O'Donnell said Gerald Sitko and Bill Bonamino ordered new trees to go in front of Bartlem Park; four London Plain Trees.

Mr. Ceccolini said a few nice trees were lost in the last five years.

Mr. O'Donnell said these trees would stand up to the weather because they are salt resistant and durable in storms. They are a form of a Sycamore tree.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dog Park

Mr. Ceccolini said the park has been used all winter and it is the only park in town that has. There are a lot of mud and worn out areas. The Dog Park group is thinking of doing a brick entrance way or stone. They are also digging up bricks that are too low and putting them around the benches.

Mr. Ceccolini said there are two Eagle Scout projects, one is doing a sign that would go up permanently and building a gazebo. An Eagle Scout is creating toys, ramps and fence posts for the dogs to run in and out of.

Mr. Ceccolini said the group is still raising money and recently had a fundraiser; the Bowl-A-Thon. They are ordering a water fountain to be installed, the upper water fountain is for people, and the lower water fountain (attached to the upper) is for dogs. The Dog Park group will pay for the whole thing.

Parks Update

Mr. Ceccolini said there is still snow on the fields and coaches are doing their best to have kids on the outer edges of the fields and not in the snow. Mr. Ceccolini said he and Dave West walked Quinnipiac yesterday which was a wet, frozen field.

Mr. Duffy questioned if Mr. Ceccolini makes the determination about the fields. Mr. Ceccolini replied yes.

Mr. Ceccolini said the playground equipment at Quinnipiac and MacNamara has been removed. At Cheshire Park the new playground would be at the north end of the park. He said he is going before the P&Z Commission on the 13th regarding the playgrounds. Lengths of guard rails would be installed along the Route 10 side of the playground.

Mr. Ceccolini said 10 of the 13 kids for the summer crew are coming back to work. The spring programs start within a week or two. We are trying to push summer camps to Mixville not at Bartlem Park.

Budget Update

Mr. Ceccolini said the budget request for the Council is just a standard request.

The electronic sign is not here yet but has been ordered. He said he is waiting for CHS to turn in their logo for the sign. The sign would be readable from the road. Stephanie Dunn would be in charge of the electronic sign and what is going to be displayed on the sign. The sign should be up by June.

Mr. O'Donnell referred to the parking lot at Cheshire Park and asked if one of the driveways would be cut off. Mr. Ceccolini replied no, it would not be cut off.

Mr. Ceccolini said P&R ordered a new mason-body dump truck. The truck comes with a plow and a leaf vac would be on the back of it.

Mr. Ceccolini said the Walk-A-Thon was this past Saturday and 300 people attended raising \$3,000 and walked three miles in the snow. The event here joined with North Haven and Hamden.

COMMISSIONER'S FORUM

Mr. Nowak said he commends whoever clears the linear trail, Hamden never cleans their side. He added that ours is always walk able within 24 hours.

Mr. Ceccolini said he does not know what they will do when they expand the trail.

Mr. Nowak suggested he do a letter to the Editor at the Cheshire Herald with all the new things going on at P&R. He said it is important to get the information out to the public somehow.

Mr. Ceccolini said Cindy Forlenza is doing a letter to the Editor in the spring for the dog park. Mr. Ceccolini said in three weeks Steve Greenwood is going to use his drone again in the parks.

Mr. O'Donnell suggested Mr. Ceccolini go onto the Cheshire Lights of Hope web page to see what Steve did with the drone for that event.

Mr. Fracasse wished everyone a nice holiday.

Mr. O'Donnell wished everyone a nice Passover and a Happy Easter.

Mr. Duffy said he would see everyone at the May meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Nowak made a motion to adjourn.

MOVED: Mr. Fracasse seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion was passed unanimously by those present. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Attest:

Claudia J. Baron, Clerk
P&RApril15.doc