

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2015, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE CHESHIRE
YOUTH CENTER, MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410**

Present

James Nankin Chairman; Dr. Pat Duffy, Vice-Chairman; Members Karen Bertoni, Paul Fracasse, Dan Nowak and Michael O'Donnell.

Staff: Robert Ceccolini, Parks and Rec Director

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Nankin called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Roll was called and a quorum was determined to be present.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

The group Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, MAY 6, 2015

MOTION by Dr. Duffy; seconded by Mr. O'Donnell

MOVED to approve and accept the minutes of May 6, 2015 subject to corrections, additions, deletions.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

4. COUNCIL LIAISON - Councilor Peter Talbot was unable to attend the meeting.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

a. Communications - there were no communications to the Commission.

b. Pool Discussion - Director Ceccolini reported that the documents (foundation drawings, R Factor drawings etc.) were submitted to the Building Department. The department has hired a peer consultant to review the plans, and until there is approval at that level, nothing can happen with the pool project. Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission that he was told Arizon (general contractor) has a Connecticut license, and all companies doing the work have the appropriate CT licenses.

The time line for the start and completion of the construction of the pool is unknown right now. The project is in the hands of people reviewing the plans. It is expected the contractor will pay a penalty at some point, or the Town Attorney will meet and negotiate with the contractor on this issue. The steel is ordered; no delivery date has been announced; there is no determination of where the steel will be stored. If it is stored at Bartlem Park, Mr. Ceccolini does not know the impact on parking, people attending games, concerts and other events. He will keep the Commissioners informed as soon as he is informed on pool issues.

Mixville Park - the summer staff has been hired by Ms. Adams to work at Mixville Park on weekends, and staff will work full time once school ends. There will be three (3) lifeguards at Mixville Pond at all times; a gate person is currently working on weekends, and the gate will have someone working 7 days a week for the summer season. Day passes to Mixville can be purchased at the gate; the attendant has a small pool of money, brings the gate money to the Parks and Rec office for security; passes are \$5 day for residents; \$10 day for out of town residents. Season passes must be purchased at the department office at a cost of \$40 Cheshire resident, and \$120 non-resident, with proper identification. Passes are to be posted in the vehicle(s). Many season passes have been sold to date. For day passes, the person must post them in the car window. Cheshire Police Department is on the park site each day, doing many pass thoughts, so there is increased police visibility at the park. People attending larger parties/events at Mixville Park will be given a pass for the day's event.

Swim lessons with Ms. Adams will continue through the summer at Elim Park pool.

6. BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE - Michael O' Donnell

Mr. O'Donnell reported that the committee met on June 3rd, 7:30 a.m.

7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

a. Dog Park - the Dog Park Committee donated money for various work stations for the dogs, i.e. tube, platforms, agility items. There were problems with some dogs running into this equipment resulting in medical attention. The equipment has been moved to a safer place on the site to create a dog work out area; the committee will purchase some fencing for the work out area; and the gazebo will be moved near the small back area of the site. Mr. Ceccolini commented on the Town's nice dog park, which is one of the better ones in the area, with fencing keeping dogs in the park and from running into the woods. Dog owners enjoy the park, make suggestions for improvements, and have purchased a water fountain. When the work out area is completed, more equipment will be purchased. It was noted by Mr. Ceccolini that throughout the winter the dog park was used consistently, and entry way problems were encountered, which will be repaired.

b. Parks Update - The Ives Corner Parklet Lights - five (5) out of (7) lights broke off; a different type of light (up lighting) will be installed at the parklet.

An Eagle Scout is working on the set of steps at Cheshire Park at the cross country trail area; clean up work is now being done; and this is an excellent scouting project.

Electronic Sign Board - the new sign board is up and operational; some electric changes were needed in the building for a dedicated line for the board; the electronic board is controlled by a computer in the Parks and Rec Offices (Ms. Dunn's computer). There will be a "ribbon cutting" for the new sign board on Friday morning, June 5th, with recognition to the Lions Club, CHS PTO, and Town of Cheshire for the first few hours of

operation. After that, the sign board will have information on community and school events. With regard to protection of the sign board, Mr. Ceccolini explained that the base is solid concrete, and a car hitting the board should not cause damage. Anyone wanting to post information on the sign board must contact Ms. Dunn with details on an event, game, etc. one week ahead of the scheduled event. During the summer there are fewer events and the sign can go longer for individual postings; fall events and games will be on the sign. Sixteen (16) signs can rotate through the board.

c. Recreation Update - Play Scapes - the playground equipment work has been completed at Quinnipiac Park and MacNamara Park; Cheshire Park area has been graded out, guard rails installed, and the Town is waiting for the company to deliver and install the equipment. There will be extra parking for the Cheshire Park playground, with a 4 foot high fence installed around the play area.

d. Budget Update - Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commissioners on the department capital budget requests. He explained that the CHS tennis courts must be completely redone due to their poor condition, to include layout of the rebar and poured concrete which tightens up as it cures becoming a solid base which prevents cracking. The cost is \$35,000 per court; existing fencing will stay; and new posts will be installed. He noted that Cheshire Academy is also upgrading the school's tennis courts, and with the CHS and Academy projects done in the same time frame, there could be economies of scale. The Cheshire Park tennis courts do not need to be redone now, but will be funded in out years of the capital expenditure plan. Future CEP requests will include the Rolling Acres tennis courts, baseball courts at Quinnipiac, MacNamara and Cheshire Parks and Youth Center, all to be done within five years.

In 2006 there was \$120,000 appropriated in the CEP for park improvements. Over 9 years the work included rebuilding of infields, organic composting, tennis court repairs. Much of this work has been supported by groups using the fields and parks. The department will request the Council to re-appropriate funds for additional park improvements.

Concerts in Bartlem Park will take place on July 17th, July 24th, July 31st, and August 7th.

Food Festival Truck - will be at Bartlem Park the last weekend in August; profits go to local charities and the Parks and Rec Department, which can sell beverages at the event for profit.

Movie Night - hosted by Cheshire Junior Football and Cheerleaders, with a request for the Parks and Rec Department to co-host the event.

The Commissioners were told by Mr. Ceccolini that the department must pay a fee for movies and music at events, usually about \$300 to \$400 a year.

Spring Sports are winding down now. Summer work students from Parks and Rec and PW Department received training at the Youth Center on June 3rd. Mixville Park looks good; the dam has been redone, cleaned up and looks nice.

8. COMMISSIONER'S FORUM

Commissioner Nowak stated he would like to write a letter to the *Cheshire Herald* editor regarding the Parks and Rec Commission, its accomplishments, things going on and taking place, i.e. the sign board, Mixville Park, play scapes. He will run the letter through Director Ceccolini to insure all the facts are correct before submission to the newspaper. Mr. Nowak will author the letter as an individual Parks and Rec Commissioner.

Commissioner Fracasse commented on the awesome Memorial Day Parade, and the good crowds throughout the parade route.

Commissioner O'Donnell also commented on the great Memorial Day Parade, the huge attendance and crowd response to the parade participants.

Commissioner Duffy has been attending the Saturday morning youth baseball games at Bartlem Park, and noted there is something going on at every field.

Director Ceccolini informed the Commissioners that Brett Torey, Athletic Director at Cheshire Academy, is leaving and moving to another school in Vermont. He noted that he and Mr. Torey have had a great partnership for the Town and the Academy. Mr. Torey will be missed, and is wished good luck in his new position.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 1st.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOVED to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:

Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk