

MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M
AT CHESHIRE PARK, CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT

Present: Jim Nankin, Chairman, Karen Bertoni, Paul Fracasse, Mike O'Donnell, Dan Nowak, Steve Trifone and Patrick Duffy

Staff Present: Bob Ceccolini, Sheila Adams

Council Present: Peter Talbot

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Nankin called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Commission Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING

MOTION: Mr. O'Donnell made a motion to accept the July, 2015 minutes.

MOVED: Ms. Bertoni seconded the motion.

Discussion – Mr. Duffy had a change from Page 3 of the minutes. He stated he was not afraid the pool would crack but was afraid the pool would lift if there was no water in it.

Mr. Duffy asked Mr. Trifone about his conversation regarding the boys and girls swim teams in last month's minutes with the boys not having any home meets. Mr. Trifone replied the girls had a couple of home meets last year and the boys were not able to.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by those present.

COUNCIL LIAISON

Capital Budget – Mr. Talbot said the capital budget is complete; Bob's requests were untouched and went through.

Mr. Nankin added the truck that was requested had an upgrade from and extended cab to a club cab.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Communications

Mr. Nankin said he didn't have any communications to share this month.

Pool

Ms. Adams informed the Commission the building inspector has signed off on the project and the steel has arrived. The digging is happening now for the footings.

Mr. Nankin wanted to mention that a decision was made without the P&R involvement to close the area by the pool for one of the concerts and that resulted in losing 50 to 75 spaces for parking. Mr. Nankin shared he didn't think it was a good decision because they didn't share it with P&R and made the decision on their own.

Ms. Adams said they didn't want anyone in that lot with the steel there.

Mr. O'Donnell added they short-changed people of Cheshire by not giving those spaces to park in.

Mr. Nankin said they could have moved the steel to the back of the parking lot; therefore, freeing up some spaces to use. Mr. Nankin added this event was bigger than the Fall Festival.

Mr. Ceccolini said we will be down two lots when the Fall Festival is here because of the carnival and now the pool lot. He added he was told once the steel arrives, they don't want anyone in the lot.

Mr. O'Donnell asked for a time table on the pool. Mr. Talbot replied if everything goes as planned, by the end of the year.

Ms. Adams says she feels Arizon is on schedule and should be done by the end of the year. After that date, we would need an additional three weeks, if everything stays on schedule. The foundation needs to be done before it gets cold.

Mr. Novak questioned why an additional three weeks would be needed. Ms. Adams responded the pool deck was destroyed, she also added they can't jack hammer over drains, etc. She said the guy that does the locker room floors also does pool decks and she is waiting for a quote from him for that.

Mr. Ceccolini said they are waiting for the guys to do the locker rooms.

Mr. Nankin said the October meeting for P&R would be at the pool.

Ms. Adams said the fall swimming lessons begin next week at Elim Park. There would be 115 children in the lessons next week. She added over the summer they did well in revenue for lessons.

Mr. Trifone added that Elim Park has been good neighbors to us.

Ms. Adams added she still has people trying to sign up for lessons and there is no room. She is the only one teaching lessons now. Ms. Adams said Mixville did well this summer when people became aware of the lifeguards.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

Mr. O'Donnell informed the Commission on the softball fields by the Yellow House are purple flags where the Beautification Commission will be planting the trees in the fall as discussed previously.

Mr. O'Donnell informed Mr. Ceccolini of the crab grass along Town Hall by the Wallingford Roadside and asked if P&R can treat it to get rid of it. Mr. Ceccolini said he would go check it out.

Mr. Ceccolini also informed Mr. O'Donnell that most of lights at Ives Corner were replaced.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dog Park

Mr. Ceccolini said the calendar program is going good although we missed the night of judging by accident. He said they had a successful response for the pictures to be included in the calendar.

Mr. Ceccolini said an Eagle Scout is putting up the gazebo at the corner where everyone stands in the shade.

Mr. Ceccolini said the dog park people paid for the water fountain and for White Bowman's services. They have added three herb gardens which are free to the public. You can go and pick some herbs in the hopes that you will plant something there in return.

Parks Update

Mr. Ceccolini said the P&R crews have been watering the field's alot lately. The Soccer Club has agreed to shut one field down to work on it; aerate and seed it. He said they are looking at trying to add booster pumps to the irrigation; we save money by doing this in-house.

Mr. Ceccolini said he asked for money from the Town Council for money to be spent on projects at the fields and this was approved.

Budget Update

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission they have received money for the tennis courts at the Youth Center. He hopes to start work immediately there. For our tennis courts we can save \$20,000 and Cheshire Academy can save \$30,000, we hope to get the project done this fall. The concrete would be tight and waterproofed and it would be guaranteed for 20 years. It is 30 percent softer than asphalt and guarantees no cracking for 20 years.

Mr. Ceccolini said Jim Kawtowski who came to P&R from PW has retired in August. We hope to fill his position soon.

Mr. Ceccolini said the Maintainer position at the pool could be filled by six qualified candidates but someone from the P&R crew may be interested in the position also.

Mr. Ceccolini said the concert series went well. He wants more help next year for sponsorship.

Mr. Ceccolini said Cheshire was ranked the 4th most boring town in CT. Mr. Ceccolini said he gets a lot of emails about how great the concerts are in the summer.

Recreation Update

Mr. Ceccolini said registration was down for the summer camps this year, hopefully we are able to get some of that back next year but Mixville was double what we normally bring in for that. He added the pavilions in town are rented out almost every weekend all summer long.

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission that Elizabeth will be on maternity leave for 6 months starting in October.

Mr. Ceccolini said the new playground looks nice. He informed the Commission the lights on the football field will start to be replaced in the fall; each LED light costs \$1,500. They are more energy efficient and ballasts on the other lights cannot be replaced anymore. It should take about a week to replace them.

Mr. Nankin said the money that was granted to us for the fields and the truck are because this department, P&R, has a good reputation to try and get the best price for what we are requesting. We have been recognized and Bob has been commended for it.

Mr. O'Donnell asked Mr. Ceccolini what is going on with the linear trail. Mr. Ceccolini replied that they are moving along, right on schedule. West Main Street and Jarvis are being worked on and the second company for the northern piece wants to get going on it. The Dalton piece is scheduled for 2017.

Mr. Talbot added the Hawke system on West Main Street is the only option for that part of the main road.

COMMISSIONER'S FORUM

Mr. O'Donnell thanked Mr. Ceccolini and Mr. Nankin for the picnic and a great concert summer.

Mr. Trifone said the picnic is a kick-off to the New Year and he is glad to be part of the P&R Commission.

Mr. Nowak said the concert series was impressive.

Mr. Nankin thanked Mr. Nowak for his contribution for the article in the paper.

Ms. Bertoni thanked P&R and Mr. Ceccolini for everything P&R did this summer.

Mr. Duffy thanked everyone for the grilling tonight and the baking. He also thanked Mr. Nankin and Mr. Ceccolini.

Mr. Fracasse thanked everyone for the picnic and wished everyone a Happy Labor Day. He also thanked Sheila Adams for everything she does.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Duffy made a motion to adjourn.

MOVED: Mr. Trifone seconded the motion.

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

Attest:

Claudia J. Baron, Clerk
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