

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2016, AT 7:00 P.M. IN YOUTH
CENTER, CHESHIRE CT 06410**

Present

James Nankin, Chairman; Patrick Duffy, Vice Chairman; Dan Nowak, Michael O'Donnell
Absent: Karen Bertoni, Paul Fracasse, Steve Trifone
Staff: Robert Ceccolini, Director, Parks and Recreation Department.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Nankin opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll and a quorum was determined to be present.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The group Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - FEBRUARY 3, 2016 MEETING

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

MOVED that the Parks and Recreation Commission approve the minutes of the February 3, 2016 meeting subject to corrections, additions, deletions.

Correction: Rec Person of the Year should read... "John *Giorgio*"

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

5. COUNCIL LIAISON - No report.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- Communications - none

- Pool Discussion -

Director Ceccolini gave the Commissioners an update on the status of the community pool. He reported on \$64,000 in revenue for February, which did not include any January revenue. It is expected there will be a "spike" in pool passes in June when the summer season begins. Swim lessons are as full as they can be, all classes are filled. The Park & Rec Department is looking for part time workers...swim instructors and lifeguards.

There are no "surge protectors" on the new pool equipment, as this was not part of the original package, and contractors were reminded about this necessity due to possible power outages or brown outs. Two weeks ago the pool facility experienced a power

outage resulting in no heat in the building. Town crews got the units up and running. There are re-sets on the equipment that did not work; the computer system has control over them; and this system is tied into the town's new performance energy system, with everything going through this system. To correct the problem, it requires an override; Public Works controls the system; and their staff can override the system. Surge protectors have been installed and they will not affect equipment warranties.

Fiberglass Grates - The pool has the original fiberglass grates which have worn down, with fiberglass poking through, and irritating people using the pool. Out of the thousands of people coming into the pool, only 10 to 12 have complained about irritation.

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commissioners that the Town Council approved replacement of the fiberglass grates with PVC grates, at an estimated cost of \$20,000 to \$25,000. These grates have been ordered; the welder has visited the facility and will give an estimate for the welding of 240 brackets for the grates; the work will be done when people are not in the facility.

A meeting was held by Mr. Ceccolini, Ms. Adams and Councilor Linehan with discussion about "marketing the pool". There was referral to an outside marketing person. A plan is being developed to promote the pool along with securing sponsorships for the scoreboard and starting blocks.

With regard to "sponsorships" Mr. Ceccolini advised that this cannot be undertaken until there is a town policy developed, written, and approved by the Town Council. It is expected this matter will be an agenda item on the March 8th Council meeting for referral to the Ordinance Review Committee. Upon this committee's approval the matter would then be forwarded to the full Town Council for approval.

There was a brief discussion about potential revenue for the pool, and Mr. Ceccolini stated that it will take three (3) months of revenue information to project an annual revenue stream. Rentals are an important revenue source. Large swim meets usually take place on weekends to accommodate the crowds; they can generate \$12,000+ in revenue; and the pool facility could host 6 or 7 meets a year. When these meets are held at the pool, the facility is closed to the public. Mr. Ceccolini pointed out that hosting swim meets was done when the bubble covered the pool, and there were also pool closings when the bubble was put up and taken down.

- Tobacco Free Parks

The Commissioners noted that there was newspaper coverage when the Commission voted to have "tobacco free parks" in Cheshire. This matter has been moved forward to the Town Council.

Mr. Nankin has talked to a few Councilors about the issue and they have no problem with the Commission's recommendation. The matter will be forwarded to the Ordinance Review Committee. The Commissioners had a discussion about banning

e-cigarettes as part of the tobacco free policy, which should include all tobacco products.

MOTION by Mr. Nowak; seconded by Dr. Duffy.

MOVED that the Parks and Recreation Commission motion for "tobacco free parks" include a statement that all Cheshire Parks are "smoke free".

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

6. THE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Mr. O'Donnell reported that the TBC did not meet on Wednesday, March 2nd. At the last TBC meeting, there was an awards ceremony recognizing the town businesses/organizations which sponsor "Adopt A Spot" and maintain their spot throughout the year. Awards were given to: Dietrich Gardens, Masons, Cheshire Nursery, Paws Pet & Spa, Suburban Garden Club.

The Cheshire Garden Club has offered to do plantings around the hedge at Cheshire Park which was recently cut back. A comment was made about the Medal of Honor site at Town Hall needing some work, and Mr. Ceccolini will check into the condition of the site for possible landscaping work.

7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Parks Update

Director Ceccolini reported on the Park and Rec crews trimming trees, doing chipping, and undertaking indoor work including painting Mary Baldwin Room at the Library, painting work at the firehouse, and Youth Center projects. The crews will be outside at the Town parks as soon as the weather breaks. There will be landscaping work done at Bartlem and Quinnipiac Parks, along with professional soil testing and suggestions about maintaining the fields.

Open Space Areas - Town Manager Milone will recommend a Gator vehicle for the department in this year's operating budget.

- Recreation Update

The spring brochure is on-line, and will be in the local *Cheshire Citizen* newspaper. Most of the registrations, about 65%, are done on-line.

Spring week of activities will include Touch A Truck, Fishing Derby, kite flying and a Muck Run at Mixville Park.

- Budget Update

The Town Manager's budget has been submitted to the Town Council. Mr. Ceccolini said that Mr. Milone supports his request for an additional staff member due to the additional work undertaken by the department for the trail, parking lots, bathrooms etc.

8. COMMISSIONER'S FORUM

Mr. Nowak commented on the pool February revenue of \$64,000 and the hope this revenue will increase in coming months. He also noted the many positive responses he has received about the electronic signboard. Regarding the Cheshire Half Marathon being held in April, Mr. Nowak will cover publicity for the event.

Dr. Duffy noted that out-of-town people have commented on difficulty in identifying the location of the Cheshire Community Pool, and the need for better signage for the pool site.

Mr. Ceccolini will check into the signage issue and advise the Commission.

Mr. O'Donnell commended Town staff for the tremendous job for the opening of the new pool facility, the more than 300+ people in attendance, of all ages, including many families.

Mr. Nankin informed the Commissioners that his daughter, Sarah Nankin, has accepted a part-time position for the Republican Registrar of Voters office.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Attest:


Marilyn W. Milton, Clerk