

MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY APRIL 6, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M  
AT THE TOWN HALL, ROOM 210 TOWN HALL, CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT

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

Staff Present: Bob Ceccolini

Council Present: Peter Talbot

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Nankin called the meeting to order at 7:20 P.M.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Commission Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING**

Mr. Nankin said the Commission is going to hold off on voting on the March minutes until next month because the minutes were just handed out tonight at the meeting.

**COUNCIL LIASION**

Mr. Talbot said Michael Milone raised the user fees and the part-time life guards for Mixville have been eliminated from the budget.

Mr. Nankin stated he feels the life guards at Mixville are essential and he doesn't think they should be eliminated. He stated it is not a lot of money to have them and it is for the safety of the children. He said the kids plus water and woods bothers him a lot.

Mr. Duffy questioned what would happen with the Town's insurance if they are eliminated. Mr. Talbot replied there would be no change, no life guard on duty, swim at your own risk would be posted at the park. The life guards would be in the area where the camps are with the kids but not watching everyone.

Mr. Nankin said Mixville was rediscovered last year and feels we have an obligation to public safety, can't lose a child.

Mr. Duffy suggested bumping up the pool user fees to pay for the part-time lifeguards. Mr. Nankin said the user fees would go up but not this year.

Mr. O'Donnell said we are losing people back to the pool and suggested we wait and see what the numbers are at Mixville before we pull the life guards.

Ms. Bertoni questioned if we could use the high school kids as life guards. Mr. Nankin said they have to be certified to be a life guard.

Mr. Nankin said if we had the money we wouldn't waste the money. Mr. O'Donnell said we don't have solid numbers yet, we don't know yet.

Mr. Nankin said when the pool went down, Mixville became more attractive.

Mr. O'Donnell added fishing is big among the young kids at Mixville.

Mr. Nankin added the small pavilion is always booked. He said he is not sure the safety issue is the area that he wants to cut back on. Mr. Nankin suggested having the life guards there until there is less of a need.

*Mr. Ceccolini and Mr. Trifone arrived at 7:45 P.M. They were in attendance upstairs in Council Chambers for the Trail Information Session.*

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

### Communications

Mr. Talbot said he had a communication, he has a request for a bench. The women who wrote the letter prefer the bench they are requesting to be in the location of Cornwall & Higgins. The request is for four Cheshire women (Angela Aitro, Vera Lupoli, Shirlee Baachrach and Salee Festa). The plate on the bench could not fit all the names it would probably just have to say from the Antinolfi sisters.

**MOTION:** Mr. Nankin made a motion to approve the bench from the Antinolfi sisters.

**MOVED:** Mr. Duffy seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** The vote passed unanimously by those present.

### Pool Discussion

Mr. Ceccolini said the grates are in for the pool and the scoreboard is in. We are waiting for good weather and we do not have the irrigation system out back yet. He said Sheila has a swim meet in May or June.

Mr. Nankin asked if we are going to shut down for a whole weekend for the swim meet. Mr. Ceccolini said Sheila would have the pool open at 6:00 A.M. for a couple of hours and later in the day for a couple of hours. Mr. Ceccolini also said Sheila has bumped up the price of the meets at the pool. He noted we used to close four weekends for the bubble to go up and down and we won't have to do that again.

Mr. Duffy noted the weekends the facility was closed were spring and fall; not summer.

Mr. Duffy asked if the pool is closed could people go to Mixville to use the facility. Mr. Ceccolini noted it is a good suggestion.

### Tobacco-Free Parks

Mr. Ceccolini stated after budget season is over the Commission will discuss the tobacco free parks.

## **BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION**

Mr. O'Donnell said the area in front of the Community Pool sign would not be a Beauty Spot this year.

Mr. O'Donnell said two more flower pots are planned for in front of the Town Hall.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### Parks Update

Mr. Ceccolini stated bathrooms are closed at all the facilities because the nights are too cold. The fields are limed and CYB had the clay delivered and the sod on the interior of the fields have been peeled back. He noted because of the weather, everything is at a standstill.

He told the Commission eight kids are coming back and four kids are new for the summer crew.

Recreation Update

Mr. Ceccolini said Elizabeth is back from maternity leave. The spring brochures are out.

Budget Update

Mr. Ceccolini said there is a ten percent increase in programs and rentals of the pavilion and the Youth Center.

The tennis court work will take place in June. This is redoing of the courts and they would be closed six to seven weeks for the work. Mr. Ceccolini said there is a 20-year guarantee on the cracking of the courts. He said Cheshire Academy wants to do the same thing.

Mr. Ceccolini said we lost some things in the budget. Mr. Nankin said the Commission knows from when Mr. Talbot gave his report.

**COMMISSIONER'S FORUM**

Mr. Nowak apologized for not attending the meeting upstairs tonight. He asked if P&R knows when the linear trail would be open.

Mr. Ceccolini replied no specific date but hopefully mid-May.

Mr. Nowak asked if the concert series would be affected by the budget. Mr. Ceccolini replied it should be fine.

Mr. Duffy thanked Ms. Bertoni for the cupcakes and Mr. Talbot for all his hard work.

Mr. Fracasse thanked Ms. Bertoni for the cupcakes and wants to wish his daughter a Happy Birthday.

Ms. Bertoni thanks Mr. Talbot, Mr. Ceccolini and Ms. Adams for their hard work.

Mr. Trifone thanked Ms. Bertoni for her cupcakes. He said he didn't get a letter this month. He also thanked Mr. Talbot for his hard work with the budget.

Mr. Nankin thanked Ms. Bertoni for the cupcakes and said that P&R didn't do badly.

Mr. Talbot said he would like to try and reinstate the life guards at Mixville.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Ms. Bertoni made a motion to adjourn.

**MOVED:** Mr. Duffy seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** The motion was passed unanimously by those present. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Attest:

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Claudia J. Baron, Clerk  
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