

MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M
AT THE YOUTH CENTER, CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT

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

Absent: Mike O'Donnell

Staff Present: Bob Ceccolini

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Nankin called the meeting to order at 7:10 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, 2016 minutes.

MOVED: Mr. Duffy seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by those present.

MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEETING

MOTION: Mr. Trifone made a motion to accept the April 6, 2016 minutes.

MOVED: Mr. Nowak seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by those present.

COUNCIL LIAISON

Mr. Talbot is absent for the meeting. No report given.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Communications

There are no communications to share.

Pool Discussion

Mr. Nankin said there have not been any complaints or problems. He informed the Commission they have started some landscaping along the back side of the pool and said maybe they can get rid of some mud.

Mr. Nankin said the facility had a good month last month and we are going to be discussing rates on the pool.

He said he has a senior friend of his who wants to utilize the pool. The non-resident is \$170 a year.

Mr. Ceccolini said Ms. Adams suggested to leave the day rates alone and the family rates alone. The recommendation is to raise the rates between 5 to 10 percent.

Ms. Bertoni asked if this was done at the last meeting already. Mr. Ceccolini replied the Council decided at their meeting.

Mr. Nankin said this was discussed prior to the town budget discussion and some can bear an increase.

Mr. Ceccolini said they would love the pool to be self-sufficient. The Commission talked about county clubs, other towns with their pools and the local Coco Keys which recently shut down.

Ms. Bertoni said she would like the pool to be a community pool (free).

Mr. Ceccolini said when you have teams the public does not get any time in the pool.

Mr. Nankin said we are transparent; we stand alone like the wastewater plant. He stated our job is to assist the pool and bring in as much money as possible.

Mr. Ceccolini said our biggest time at the facility is the summer.

Ms. Bertoni questioned if we could hold off on raising the fees. Mr. Ceccolini replied no, they go up in July.

Mr. Trifone asked if there is a date for the open-air pool. Mr. Ceccolini replied the water has to get warm first. It would probably be on Memorial Day weekend. The doors would go down during the day and go back up at night.

Mr. Ceccolini said they paved along the outside of the building which will make it easier for snow-plowing. The grading has been done and the berm was not addressed. He said he is not happy with that. He noted in the past it was weed-whacked but was a nuisance to do.

Mr. Duffy asked about the water runoff. Mr. Ceccolini said the facility is too far away to have problems with water runoff.

Mr. Ceccolini said the crew is returning. Currently, we have five guys and would get 15.

Mr. Fracasse asked if there would be tables and umbrellas outside. Mr. Nankin said they could bring some out.

Mr. Duffy asked if there would be movie nights again. Mr. Ceccolini said it could be possible. The facility is staying open later in the summer until around 9 PM.

Ms. Bertoni said her and Mr. Nowak talked about fundraising in their report. Mr. Nowak reminded Mr. Ceccolini they talked about a second opening, the first one being a soft opening.

Mr. Ceccolini suggested they come up with a plan and talk to Sheila Adams. He noted holidays are very popular.

Tobacco Free Parks

Mr. Ceccolini said the town is talking about an Ordinance Subcommittee meeting which would probably start in the month of May.

Mr. Duffy asked if it would be an open forum. Mr. Ceccolini replied it would be a public Council meeting.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

Mr. O'Donnell is absent from the meeting; therefore, there is no report given.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Parks Update

Mr. Ceccolini said one guy already started on the Parks crew, one starts Monday and one next week. Four guys over the next four weeks, he said they hired 12.

Mr. Ceccolini said the soil testing at Quinnipiac and Bartlem Park is done. There is one soccer field at Quinnipiac that is the only field in such great shape. They are addressing some problems at Bartlem Park. He said they fertilized ten days ago, the lawns are great.

Recreation Update

Mr. Ceccolini said sports have started.

Mr. Nankin said softball received good coverage on Channel 8.

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission on the April spring break they had a muck run at Mixville Park. Over 100 kids participated and had a lot of fun. Some of the events were the Slip N' Slide, they ran around the pond, ran through tires, carried rocks and went through webbing and the Fire Department was present.. He said he heard three or four people tell him that day they had never been to Mixville before and have lived in town their whole life.

Mr. Ceccolini said the summertime brochure is going to the printer next Friday.

Budget Update

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission the life guards were cut out of the budget for the days of Monday through Friday and the additional parks maintainer was also cut.

Ms. Bertoni asked if the high school kids could patrol there. Mr. Ceccolini replied they have the Park Rangers and it is swim at your own risk.

Mr. Nankin said if we bring large crowds to Mixville he wouldn't hesitate to go back to the Town Council regarding the life guards. He suggested waiting until it's happening.

Mr. Ceccolini referred to the Capital budget and said the next budget would be the tennis courts at Cheshire Park and a new vehicle.

Mr. Ceccolini said the tennis courts here at the Youth Center would close approximately June 13 and be closed for approximately six weeks while they are being redone. He noted the programs involving tennis would move to Cheshire Park and having the courts redone he feels could revitalize tennis.

Mr. Trifone questioned when the grand opening of the new linear park would be. Mr. Ceccolini said it is not scheduled yet until the Hawks System is installed. He estimated it could be in June.

Mr. Ceccolini referred to the linear trail and the portion from Jarvis to Southington is going well and looks like it is on schedule. He noted HI Stone does the Jarvis parcel while Shultz does the Jarvis to Southington parcel.

COMMISSIONER'S FORUM

Mr. Nowak suggested he or Mr. Nankin do an opinion column for the Cheshire Herald for the public to be aware of what P&R does. Mr. Nankin told Mr. Nowak to call him next week and they would talk about it.

Mr. Duffy thanked Ms. Bertoni for the goodies she brought in.

Mr. Trifone thanked Ms. Bertoni also for the food. He noted it is good to hear all the positive news on the pool.

Mr. Nankin said the previous pool (the one he refers to as previous being the one the bubble came down) had negative vibes. This facility has positive comments and he is not hearing all the negativity. He said everyone did a good job with the soft grand opening and people really saw it for the first time. He said it is very quiet there except for the young voices and that's what it is all about. Nice to hear it.

Mr. Ceccolini said a water aerobics group comes in at 6 AM every morning and they are very quiet.

Mr. Fracasse wanted to know if P&R had anything to do with the road race. Mr. Ceccolini said the Lions Club parked the cars and controlled the parking. Mr. Fracasse also thanked Ms. Bertoni for her treats.

Ms. Bertoni said she would like to feel comfortable to speak as everyone else does. She said sometimes the Commission is hard and everyone should respect each other's opinions.

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 8:00 PM.

Attest:

Claudia J. Baron, Clerk
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