

MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M  
AT THE YOUTH CENTER, CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT

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

Absent: Karen Bertoni

Staff Present: Bob Ceccolini

**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 JUNE MEETING**

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

MOVED: Mr. Duffy seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by those present.

**COUNCIL LIAISON**

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

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Communications

Mr. Nankin shared a communication he had. It was a letter dated June 29, 2016 from Earl J. Kurtz III of the Planning & Zoning Commission, the letter stated the P&Z adopted the Cheshire Plan of Development on June 27, 2016. He wanted to thank us for our input regarding this matter.

Mr. Ceccolini had a communication to share. It was a letter from Lori Poliken Strobel dated July 6, 2016 regarding the idea of love locks along the trail.

Love locks are used in other countries such as Italy. People put locks then use the key to lock the lock symbolizing their love for someone and throw the key into the river or ocean. She suggests people take the key with them. She is looking for input from the P&R Commission and an idea of a location where this could happen along the trail or something to be built at Lock 12.

There was a discussion among Commission members. Mr. Ceccolini said Lock 12 is a historical place and didn't think the locks should be at this location but said it is a nice idea.

Mr. Trifone agreed with Mr. Ceccolini and added to keep the heritage at Lock 12.

Mr. Ceccolini suggested to wait until 2017 when the piece of the trail is completed by Ball and Socket. That piece would take two years to construct so it would be 2018 when it is completed.

This discussion for the locks are on HOLD. There could be a chance to tie it into Ball & Socket along the trail.

Mr. Nowak asked if the Beautification Commission should know about this.

Mr. Ceccolini asked Mr. O'Donnell to relay the message to them.

### Trail Opening

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission the Hawk System was tested last week and is in good working condition.

The ribbon cutting is this Saturday at 9:00 AM at Jarvis Street (north end of the trail). Michael Milone will be there and Mr. Ceccolini is unable to attend but Mr. Nankin will say a few words at the ceremony.

Mr. Nankin said the Commission is invited to attend.

Mr. Ceccolini said it is the first Hawk System in CT. It will flash yellow then solid red, then flashing red.

Mr. Ceccolini referred to the Island of Refuge saying it is not big enough for a light so why keep it there. It is a problem with the FD when cars pull over to let the FD pass, they cannot go around the island.

Mr. Nankin added Jarvis and Lock 12 would be used a lot for the trail.

### Pool Discussion

Mr. Nankin said all is well at the facility and the income is good.

Mr. Ceccolini said they assumed June would be a small month but it has been a very good month. He notified the Commission Glenn Root is leaving, he found another job.

Mr. Ceccolini said there has been good revenue in the five months since the pool opened. For the expenses we ended the year lower than we anticipated. He talked about figures and budgets to the Commission members.

Mr. O'Donnell asked about the purchase of a slide. Mr. Ceccolini replied it is in the capital budget but could go out a few years.

### Tobacco Free Parks

Mr. Nankin informed the Commission the Town of Hamden passed an ordinance for no smoking in their parks. It was on the front page of the New Haven Register today and they mentioned Cheshire in their article. It is a \$100 violation fee in Hamden. Wallingford and Meriden have theirs in effect.

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission we are on the State schedule for infractions. The problem with setting a fee is if it goes to the State schedule where the State raises it, it does not have to go to the Ordinance Committee. Ours is covered under the for the State of CT infractions.

Mr. Nankin said there was one hold up in Hamden from a voter against the smoke-free parks. She felt the electronic cigarettes shouldn't be on there.

Mr. Ceccolini said the Town of Branford contacted him today regarding proceeding also.

## **BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION**

Mr. O'Donnell had nothing to report except for the flowers look great.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### Parks Update

Mr. Ceccolini updated the Commission on the completion of the tennis courts. He said 540 yards of concrete were poured and by 5:00 PM the same day they were walking on it. The courts

need a month to cure. He informed the Commission that the company did one pour on Monday and the 2<sup>nd</sup> pour on Wednesday. He said they tightened the rods underneath and came back and did a 2<sup>nd</sup> tightening of the rods. Mr. Ceccolini said the Town of Monroe is doing the same thing and Cheshire Academy will be doing it also. The Academy has 8 to 10 courts to do. Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission the college kids are painting the fence posts dark green at the tennis courts. The courts would be color coated at the end of the month.

Mr. Ceccolini said he wants the tennis courts at Dodd Middle School and the three basketball courts done. He said they are going to add millings to Cheshire Park to try and even them out.

Mr. Ceccolini said the fields have been hit hard due to the lack of rain. The sprinkler systems have been redone including the control boxes; everything has been straightened out. He said the back lacrosse field is getting burnt out.

#### Recreation Update

Mr. Ceccolini said Mixville is very popular and the camps are going OK.

#### Budget Update

Mr. Ceccolini said we are asking for new bathrooms at Quinnipiac and Lock 12. The development of the Chapman property is being talked about.

Mr. Ceccolini said the concerts start on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and run until August 12 on Friday nights. Mr. Nankin said the carnival would be on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Ceccolini said on the 22<sup>nd</sup> is Running On Empty a cover band for Jackson Brown and this concert would have the food trucks. On the 29<sup>th</sup> is Devino Brothers; on August 5 is the CT Transit Authority which is music of Chicago and on August 12 is the shakedown music of the Grateful Dead.

**MOTION:** Mr. Duffy made a motion to forgo our August meeting unless there is an emergency.

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

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

#### **COMMISSIONER'S FORUM**

Mr. Duffy wished everyone a good rest of summer.

Mr. Trifone said he's looking forward to the concert series and for everyone to have a nice summer.

Mr. Fracasse wished everyone a good summer.

Mr. O'Donnell said he would see everyone at the concerts and wondered if our September meeting would be at Lock 12. It was decided to have the September meeting there.

Mr. Nowak asked if there has been any publicity for P&R lately. Mr. Ceccolini replied last week.

Mr. Nowak said he would write a blog. He wished everyone a happy summer. He asked if there is anything else public relations wise he can do.

Mr. Ceccolini suggested he wait until the courts are painted.

Mr. Nankin wished everyone a safe summer.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Mr. Duffy made a motion to adjourn.

**MOVED:** Mr. O'Donnell seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** The motion was passed unanimously by those present. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Attest:

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Claudia J. Baron, Clerk  
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