

**MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M. AT 487 NORTH BROOKSVALE RD. PARK,
LOCK 12 PARK PAVILION, CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT**

PRESENT: JIM NANKIN, CHAIRMAN, PATRICK DUFFY, PAUL FRACASSE, STEVE TRIFONE, MIKE
O'DONNELL AND DAN NOWAK, AND KAREN BERTONI

STAFF PRESENT: BOB CECCOLINI and KEVIN

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Narkin called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Commission Pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING

MOTION: Mike O'Donnell made a motion to accept the July, 6, 2016 minutes

MOVED: Mr. Duffy seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by all those present.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Communications

Mr. Ceccolino started off the meeting with reading a letter that he received from a resident, Nancy Shay, that wanted to name a bench after her deceased daughter Skyler. She requested a green bench with a memorial plaque. The Commission agreed that this should be done. The Director that he has received 3-4 requests for more benches.

Motion: Mr. O'Donnell made a motion to accept the motion.

Moved: Mr. Trifone seconded the motion.

Vote: The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Pool Discussion

Mr. Ceccolini stated that the pool, July through August, was very successful for generating revenue. There were many residents buying seasonal passes, which provide for great revenue. From a revenue stand point, June ended great with revenue generated from the pool.

Mr. Glen Root, life guard left, and was replaced by former intern, and newly highly town employee Nick Paladino. Nick is a Cheshire resident and has a Bachelor's in Recreation. He has attended every Cheshire Parks and Recreation related event.

Mr. Ceccolini stated that pool parking lot needs to remain open for other events. Mr. Trifone commented that the lot is well kept and looks great. about protecting equipment and the Town pool. Also, he made mention of clearing of snow this winter. There is about 2/3rds of the grounds that will need to be cleared off. Smoke stacks are still a concern.

Landscaping is a concern because there are still issues with the contractors. Mr. Ceccolini in-house landscaping and more equipment is on his "wish list." The Town received an estimate from a local landscaping company that was \$12,000. Also, there is a need for irrigation, as some patches of the land at the pool have brown grass.

Overall, the pool is in good shape. Lesson programs are thriving; Y team is doing very well at major swimming meets. Shelia has issued new rates for the meets.

Tennis courts a ready, but not all fencing is completed. Mr. Ceccolini and Mr. Trifone talked about the issue of fencing and barbed wire at the tennis court

Tobacco-Free Parks

Next month, an ordinance is going to the Town Council to make town parks and recreational areas tobacco-free. Many surrounding towns have done this such as, Hamden, Meriden, Wallingford, and Southington.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

Mr. O'Donnell explained that planter's need to be removed by Hawk street (West Main Street).

Planters in front of Town Hall also need to be removed because they are causing a nuisance. The parks and recreation department will put some fill in front of town hall.

The tree at the "Yellow House" needs to be removed. The Town received an estimate from Brookside for \$625.00. Also, another tree will be planted in its' place.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT**Parks Update**

Mr. Narkin remarked about the Town's dog park is constantly crowded. Mr. Ceccolini explained that there will be improvements at the park such as, the installment of a gazebo, a bench, and a path will be paved. He also stated that Bartlum Park needs to be shut down temporarily to fix somethings. The backfields, at the park, need to be aerated and the irrigation system needs to be fixed to make the grass green again.

Recreation Update

The Fall brochures were mailed out to residents. The Summer was very successful in the parks. The guards did a great job of protecting the parks and keeping things order. Ms. Bertoni agreed. The commission would like to have food trucks for the concerts and the events next year. Neighboring towns did have food trucks and it was a great success for them.

Budget Update

Mr. Ceccoloni explained that budget was approved for one new pick-up truck, fixing basketball courts and upgrading parks bathrooms.

He remarked that the new trail is working out well and people are using it a lot. Construction of the rest of the trail will continue in 2017 in the Cornwall and West Main Street areas.

Ms. Bertoni asked about the parking at Jarvis. Mr. Ceccoloni explained that the north side is closed, but the south side remains open. She asked that the crossing was problematic and that maybe a side walk in should be installed.

Mr. Narkin said that he always sees huge groups of bikers that go on the trail. He is referring to motorcycles. Mr. Ceccoloni said that there are speed limit signs posted to prevent speeding and accidents. He praised the Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation, Sandy for always doing a fantastic job.

COMMISSIONERS' FORUM

Mr. Fracasse remarked that he "loves" the concerts. The commission echoed this sentiment.

All of the commission members had great praise for Kevin and expressed extreme sadness for his departure. Everyone present had wonderful things to say to him and thanked him numerous times for his service. Emphasis was placed on Kevin's work ethic and how he always went above his call of duty. Former Parks and Recreation worker Carol was present, and all commission members gave thanks to her for her years of service to the Town.

The Department has been receiving complaints about having a laser show instead of fireworks at the Fall Festival. There are too many liability concerns with fireworks and this is why they are trying something new.

Questions about acquiring the "Chapman" property were raised. The Town Council will have an executive session to address the environmental issues that were found on the property. The commission members all want to acquire this property.

Mr. O'Donnell remarked that neighbors are complaining about the Hawk's System. Apparently, the yellow and red blinking lights cause confusion; even though information is on the website and literature about how the system works was sent to residents. Any changes to this system would have to come from the CT Department of Transportation.

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 8:00 P.M.

Attest:

Tara Pisaturo-Pelatowski, Clerk