

MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M
AT THE YOUTH CENTER, CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT

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

Absent: Karen Bertoni

Council Present: Peter Talbot

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 OCTOBER MEETING

MOTION: Mr. Nankin made a motion to accept the October, 2016 minutes with the following changes:

Page 3: Under Chairman's Report, Communications; the second sentence should read: "He said the Lions Club **requested** a purchase and installation for a bench on the new linear trail near Jarvis Street". Omit the word *approved*.

Page 4: Third paragraph down, under VOTE; delete the sentence "*All were in favor*".

Page 5: Under Tobacco Free Parks the sentence should read "Mr. Talbot said the Town Attorney is writing an ordinance for the review of the tobacco free parks."

MOVED Mr. Duffy seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by those present.

COUNCIL LIAISON

Mr. Talbot informed the Commission there is a special meeting tomorrow night for the Chapman property and there are limited areas of concern. He said they would probably discuss the final amendment to the contract.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Communications

Mr. Ceccolini has a request to share he received today via email. It is from Elizabeth Skelton who wants a memorial tree and bench in honor of her husband, Devin Skelton, who passed away. She would like the bench on the new part of the trail. Her husband, Devin, travelled from Beacon Falls to East Haven daily.

MOTION: Mr. O'Donnell made a motion to approve a bench for Elizabeth Skelton and to be placed on the new part of the trail.

MOVED: Mr. Nowak seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Mr. Ceccolini said the new benches that were installed by the construction company are plain benches; without plaques. People have noticed them without plaques and want to put plaques on them.

This is **TABLED** until next month until Mr. Ceccolini can research the cost of plaques and possible fee changes for the benches that could be effective January 1, 2017.

Mr. Nowak suggested putting multiple plaques on benches but it was discussed they could be too busy. Mr. Ceccolini also discussed how people would pay differently because of the cost of the bench and they would have to share it with other people that are only purchasing plaques.

Mr. Duffy suggested telling the people it would be a multiple plaque bench.

Pool Discussion

Mr. Nankin referred to the October minutes and asked Mr. Trifone if he found anyone who we could rent benches from. Mr. Trifone replied he has not found anyone but he would follow-up with Sheila with any information.

Tobacco Free Parks

Mr. Talbot said he has not heard if the Town Attorney has written the ordinance yet. He said it would go from the Town Attorney to Ordinance Review to the Council when it happens.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

Mr. O'Donnell said Deborah Rudder, Deputy Director of the Library, is going to do plantings by the bench outside of the library. They hope to do so this fall.

Mr. O'Donnell referred to the sign at the entrance of Bartlem Park; he said it is falling apart and looks bad. The recessed lights are broken that shine up on the sign. He asked if maybe a boy scout could make a new sign.

Mr. Ceccolini said the sign was done by a boy scout about 20 years ago. He will look into it but talked about repairing the sign instead of replacing it. He talked about another area of town that could be getting flush-mounted lights and this would also be a good area for the lights also.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Parks Update

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission he has had meetings with the men that did the tennis courts. They have looked at the basketball courts at the Youth Center, MacNamara and Cheshire Park. The courts could be redone this winter if we have good weather. Mr. Ceccolini said MacNamara gets used the most.

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission the second gazebo is going up at the dog park. One boy scout did the work. He put concrete in to create two bases and he sealed it. A bench will be installed also.

Mr. Ceccolini said at Quinnipiac Park they closed a field this fall and it came out great. They will do a late season over seed and topsoil. They would hold soccer off for a couple of weeks in the spring and rugby.

Mr. Ceccolini gave an update on the trail. He informed the Commission the tree company went out there today and started cutting down the trees that were marked a couple of weeks ago. The Commission talked about the fencing on the trail. Mr. Ceccolini said he is going to ask for another maintenance guy in the budget to help maintain the trail.

Mr. Nankin asked if the trail would be plowed during the winter. Mr. Ceccolini replied as of now, no. He added in one year's time we go from three miles of trail to seven miles of trail. Mr. Nankin added that requires a huge amount of maintenance.

Mr. Ceccolini said there was graffiti at the bathrooms today at Bartlem and it has already been painted over. There was no damage the night before Halloween or on Halloween. He said there has been damage the night after Halloween with graffiti.

Recreation Update

Mr. Ceccolini said the fall programs are going well. The winter brochure is getting put together.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL

MOTION: Mr. O'Donnell made a motion for the Commission to enter Executive Session at 7:27 P.M.

MOVED: Mr. Nowak seconded the motion.

VOTE: The vote passed unanimously by those present.

MOTION: Mr. Nankin made a motion for the Commission to end Executive Session at 7:31 P.M.

MOVED: Mr. O'Donnell seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by those present.

COMMISSIONER'S FORUM

Mr. Duffy, Mr. Fracasse, Mr. O'Donnell and Mr. Trifone wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Trifone informed the Commission for his league the trials for the swim championship were held at our facility on Tuesday. The dive championship is going on right now at our facility and we would continue future events at our facility.

Mr. O'Donnell questioned the seating capacity for the SECC championship.

Mr. Duffy noted you would need building capacity for that.

Mr. Ceccolini said its actually bathrooms. It is not a fire department issues because we have the sprinklers installed, it is a building code holding us up. We have to have so many bathrooms for so many people.

Mr. Nowak compared our facility to Yale. There are 1,100 seats at Yale. He said he has talked to the CIAC and they want to use our pool.

Mr. Trifone informed the Commission November 12 will start the new construction of the concession/bathrooms and should be completed by March 1, 2017. We are getting more bathrooms. He noted we have to have so many bathrooms for a certain number of people.

Mr. Nowak wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and congratulates all the high school teams.

Mr. Nankin wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Duffy made a motion to adjourn.

MOVED: Mr. Nowak seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion was passed unanimously by those present. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Attest:

Claudia J. Baron, Clerk

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