MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2010, AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE YOUTH CENTER, CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT

Present:       Jim Nankin, Chairman, Steve Trifone, Patrick Duffy, Karen Bertoni and Ira Kushner

Staff Present:  Bob Ceccolini

Council Liaison Present:  Tom Ruocco

Absent:       Rich Pulisciano and Paul Fracasse

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Nankin called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Commission Pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

MINUTES OF DECEMBER MEETING

MOTION:  Mr. Duffy made a motion to accept the December 2, 2009 minutes.

MOVED:  Mr. Trifone seconded the motion.

VOTE:  The motion passed unanimously by those present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

COUNCIL LIAISON

Mr. Nankin welcomed Mr. Ruocco to the P&R Commission. He said the Commission allows someone to speak without interruption. If someone has something to say, we allow them to say it without holding back. He spoke for everyone on the Commission and said that this Commission wants to know what the Council’s thoughts are and what is expected of us. It was suggested Mr. Ruocco be our conduit back to the Council. If you think we shouldn’t bother with something, tell us. If you have questions, ask them.
CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Communications

Mr. Nankin said he received a communication from the Police Department regarding the steel girders for Quinnipiac which is not in our purview. Mr. Nankin said he would notify the Police Department that they have to contact the WPCA.

Pool Update

Mr. Nankin said the pool is running well with a glitch today involving the boiler.

Mr. Ceccolini confirmed that the boiler shuts itself off and an alarm sounds. Our vendor is White Bowman and they will try and figure out why it does what it does. We are currently waiting for a report from them.

Mr. Ceccolini informed everyone that Brian Blair does a lot of work there regarding the electrical problems. He has been very involved with charting the humidity inside the building. The humidity and condensation used to build up on the old roof and that’s where we would get the ice on the bottom of the roof. Brian said there are no problems thus far; the repairs seem to have fixed that problem.

Mr. Ceccolini said he’s hoping P&R could do the venting by the revolving doors next. The revolving doors would be vented out before the air gets into the building. The gutters will be done tomorrow. The door collapsed during the last snowstorm. We ordered a new door that came in today.

Mr. Bertoni questioned what if the same situation happens again with the collapsed door? Mr. Ceccolini replied it has never done that in seven years. The snow/ice would have to hit in the exact same spot it did for it to occur again.

Mr. Ceccolini said we have a new head lifeguard. He starts next week and is name is Jason Williams. He is experienced and has been a lifeguard for a long time.

Mr. Duffy questioned about the air space under the roof? Mr. Ceccolini replied we have a solid roof that vents. With the old roof, lots of air would leak into the building. The roof repair has fixed that problem.

Mr. Nankin questioned if the doors would be resealed? Mr. Ceccolini replied yes, it was suggested we replace the door down near the lifeguard entrance. This door will not be done now because the venting was more important. The breathing problems at the pool are much better. He said there have been positive comments regarding the lobby and locker rooms.
Mr. Ceccolini discussed the vacuum at the pool and what will be done about it. The vacuum was expensive when purchased and never worked the way it was supposed to, broke often. The representative from the company said they have sold numerous vacuums and never have had a problem until Cheshire’s vacuum problems. The company is going to replace the vacuum free of charge. It is on its way to us.

Mr. Ceccolini informed that Open Aire and KBE are the two companies who will be interviewed by the town for recommendations on what to do with the pool. One is for a glass building and one is for an open facility. The two companies are coming into the town to make their presentations and the Public Building Commission will proceed with it.

Ms. Bertoni questioned if the Commission could give any recommendations?

Mr. Ruocco suggested the P&R Commission put down on paper their priorities which can then go through him or to Jim Sima. He said he would make sure the Commission gets P&R’s thoughts.

Mr. Duffy asked if it has been decided to move away from the bubble. Mr. Nankin replied no.

Mr. Ruocco said the pool facility has to be related to the public that it is a do over. Mr. Nankin said we have to make sure that we keep the bubble in the options open. Mr. Ceccolini said nothing changes until the town votes. Mr. Nankin said if it isn’t worded properly then the bubble could be eliminated by accident.

Mr. Ruocco said there would be still be humidity problems and the expense of putting the bubble up and down. Mr. Nankin said there are better bubbles out there now with better R-factors but in the end it’s still a bubble.

Ms. Bertoni suggested contacting the other towns with the better bubbles and get some answers that could help our town.

Mr. Ruocco suggested not forgetting the life of the building vs. the cost of just the bubble.

Mr. Duffy questioned if the gas company is going to be hooking up in Cheshire? Mr. Ceccolini replied he believes within a year and through Route 68. Mr. Ruocco replied that a fuel cell could be beneficial.

Mr. Ceccolini said P&R is going to go and see some of the Open Aire structures and some of the KBE sites. KBE is at UCONN and a site in West Hartford. Open Aire has one in Milford but we want to see another one from them.

Mr. Duffy commented that our facility looks great driving down Route 10.
**Meeting Dates 2010**

Attached

Mr. Nankin said the Election of Our Officers, not listed on the agenda, is TABLED until our February meeting.

**2009 Recreation Person of the Year**

TABLED until February.

**WEST MAIN STREET “STREETSCAPE” COMMITTEE**

No updated information.

**DOG PARK**

Ms. Bertoni said they are still waiting on the non-profit piece to go through, they don’t have final approval for the land.

Mr. Ceccolini said the Council meetings are the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. Mr. Ruocco said the Planning Commission would take it first.

Mr. Duffy questioned what the hours of the park would be? Ms. Bertoni replied until dusk.

**BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION**

Mr. Trifone informed that the wall in front of town hall was redone. Beautification approached P&R to have plantings put in the spring and they will split the cost with P&R. The bricks in front of the town hall are cracking and crumbling, the walkway may have to be redone. Mr. Trifone said there is a brick resistant to salt.

Mr. Trifone said the Town Expo is coming in March. He said the Commission is looking to do a few things at Arts Place. He said the Commission wanted to update the sign but an Eagle Scout did it and put a lot of work into it.

Mr. Trifone said the Commission talked about lighting more lights during the holiday season.
DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Park Status

Mr. Ceccolini said a kid was hurt on a toboggan at Mixville. The child said he lost feeling in his neck and fingers; he was then taken by Lifestar out of the park to the hospital. He spent the night at the hospital and released the next day. He is fine. We do have signs up that say sledding at your own risk and that the park is unmonitored.

Recreation Programs

Mr. Ceccolini said the winter programs are starting but the yoga class which seemed popular in the past, is lacking people. The next brochure goes out to the printer next Friday. P&R is trying not to mail the brochures out but do so via e-mail. The brochure would go to the town server but apparently hackers can get into the system and we can’t allow that with everyone’s addresses and/or personal information on the system. If it can’t be done then it won’t be done. Mr. Ceccolini said it would save P&R a lot of money if possibly we could get people to sign up for it.

Budget

Mr. Ceccolini said he doesn’t know what will happen with the salary portion of the budget. The unions are in negotiation. We were asked to hold at a zero increase. Our budget would be turned into Michael Milone by the end of the month. P&R does need a tractor.

Mr. Ceccolini suggested having the next meeting at possibly the town garage.

Mr. Ceccolini said Barbara Beitch requested a bench with shrubs to be installed on the linear trail north of South Brooksvale. Her husband passed away.

MOTION: Mr. Trifone made a motion to approve the Beitch bench with low maintenance plantings to be installed on the linear trail.

MOVED: Mr. Duffy seconded the motion.

VOTE: The vote passed unanimously by those present.

Mr. Nankin requested everyone look over the by-laws and consider updating them. The Commission should consider updating the absence policy. We meet once a month and there are only seven of us.
COMMISSIONER’S FORUM

Mr. Kushner said the softball tournament has been changed to the Ray DeLouise Friends of Softball Scholarship. The scholarship is for $500 and you have to be an active member for four years and your parents have to pay the dues for four years. Applicants would get the scholarship after the first semester of college.

Mr. Kushner said some teams would like to play at Bartlem for Memorial Day weekend. There are 34 teams; six teams are on the waiting list. Some of the tournament money goes to the scholarship fund, some gets donated to Wallingford and some goes to Enchilada’s for the food. Mr. Kushner hopes the concession stand that will be built at Bartlem is open at that time.

Mr. Duffy wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed Mr. Ruocco to P&R, as did Ms. Bertoni.

Mr. Nankin said when this building for the pool became a reality; the user member on the PBC was him. Mr. Nankin would like to have that position again. He wants to make sure that P&R position as a user member is to the PBC. Mr. Nankin also welcomed Mr. Ruocco.

Mr. Ruocco requested contacts, emails, etc.

Mr. Nankin said he hopes to see Mr. Ruocco on a monthly basis. Mr. Ruocco responded he would get to as many meetings as he could.

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 8:25 P.M.

Attest:

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Claudia J. Baron, Clerk
P&RJan10