MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2010, AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE YOUTH CENTER, CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT

Present: Jim Nankin, Chairman, Rich Pulisciano, Patrick Duffy, Paul Fracasse and Ira Kushner

Staff Present: Bob Ceccolini

Council Liaison Present: Tom Ruocco

Absent: Steve Trifone and Karen Bertoni

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 JANUARY MEETING

MOTION: Mr. Fracasse made a motion to accept the January 6, 2009 minutes.

MOVED: Mr. Kushner seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by those present.

COUNCIL LIAISON

Mr. Ruocco said he has nothing to discuss but is interested in what the guest representing his group has to say tonight. Mr. Ruocco said he can keep P&R informed of the PBC meetings.

Mr. Nankin said this year he is not getting a user member and finds it hard to believe the Council doesn’t think P&R deserves a spot because we are the end user.

Mr. Ceccolini replied we can still attend the meetings but cannot vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Doug Levins, member of the Cheshire Community Pool Action Committee introduced himself to the Commission.
Mr. Levins explained that the group formed to be proactive with the upcoming referendum. A meeting was held approx. 1 ½ weeks ago with five seniors, four to five people from the swim teams and lap swimmers.

Mr. Ceccolini said Bob Babcock was the leader of the first group that was formed for the referendum.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Communications

Mr. Nankin said he received one communication to meet with Doug Levins who is here tonight.

Pool Update

Mr. Ceccolini said the gutter job has been completed and the heating element isn’t done yet. Mr. Ceccolini noted that Brian can do the work under their guidance.

The awaited vacuum will arrive tomorrow at the pool. The pool hasn’t had a good vacuum done in a couple of months.

Mr. Ceccolini said he went to a KBE facility in West Hartford recently as Doug went to Milford. A representative was present at the West Hartford facility to answer any technical questions. The pool entailed six lanes, small kiddie’s pool, and a therapy pool which can be adjusted up or down six feet. When the therapy pool adjusts down it is used as deck space for parents. They say there have been no problems with the adjustments to the therapy pool thus far. West Hartford has been using the facility for 20 years. Mr. Ceccolini said the windows in the facility can’t go all the way down and the skylight doesn’t open. It is an indoor pool and gets very hot in the summer.

Mr. Levins said his group was very impressed with the facility in Milford. The facility has been running for three to four years and has nothing to do with aluminum. The steel does have to be repainted every five years. There is no condensation and the humidity is better controlled. It is aesthetically and environmentally pleasing and a difference of night and day.

Mr. Ceccolini said there were 12 people in attendance in the group including Jim Sima, Michael Milone, Lou Cohen, Bill Kunde, Energy Commission and a few others as well.

Mr. Ceccolini said the next step would be to interview the two firms that PBC will conduct and they will get back to the Council.
Mr. Ruocco said the PBC would come back with options from the two firms of atrium style vs. closed.

Mr. Levins said the PBC has to make a comparison, Open Aire vs. KBE. They can’t make a position of their own.

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission he has a meeting Friday with Sheila Adams and Michael Milone regarding the pool budget. There is very little change to the budget. There have been a lot of capital improvements since last year.

Mr. Ceccolini said there have been no drips in the lobby. The facility has a relay switch now. The door was replaced recently and cost $4,000 from the last snow collapse.

Mr. Ceccolini said the PBC meetings are open to anyone and are Wednesday nights. He said he is looking forward to Doug Levins group.

Mr. Levins said there will be a liaison for the group once the referendum is set. He said he would like his group to go beyond the referendum. They plan to offer ideas for reducing costs and marketing. They know Sheila is very busy and doesn’t have the time to figure out how to make revenue. The group could bring P&R new ideas to increase membership.

Mr. Nankin said the ideas would be welcomed.

**Election of Officers**

Mr. Ruocco conducted the following elections:

For the position of **Chairman**, Patrick Duffy nominated Jim Nankin, Rich Pulisciano seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations present; Jim Nankin is the sole nominee. The vote passed 4 to 1.

For the position of **Vice Chairman**, Jim Nankin nominated Patrick Duffy, Rich Pulisciano seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations present; Patrick Duffy is the sole nominee. The vote passed 5 to 0.

For the position of **Secretary**, Patrick Duffy nominated Paul Fracasse, Rich Pulisciano seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations present; Paul Fracasse is the sole nominee. The vote passed 5 to 0.

Nominations are now closed. Mr. Ruocco moved to close the elections.
2009 Recreation Person of the Year

MOTION: Mr. Nankin made a motion to have Mike Goggin receive the award of Recreation Person of the Year for Parks & Recreation.

MOVED: Mr. Duffy seconded the motion.

VOTE: The vote passed unanimously by those present.

Mr. Ceccolini said he would have Mike attend the March meeting.

WEST MAIN STREET “STREETSCAPE” COMMITTEE

Mr. Fracasse said everything is moving along.

Mr. Pulsciano left the meeting at 7:35 P.M.

DOG PARK

Mr. Nankin said everything is moving along and the group is raising money.

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission next Thursday, February 11 the group is going to the Council’s Planning Subcommittee. The group has a plan, layout and is ready to put a sign on the property once they receive final permission to use the land. The sign would entail “Future Home of the Dog Park”.

Mr. Duffy questioned the depth they would need for the sign because of the cap? Mr. Ceccolini replied that some areas on the site go four to five feet deep and it depends on what the DEP has to say.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

None given, Mr. Trifone is absent from the meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Park Status

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission that vendors/consultants have been looking at Mixville Park to install security lighting. The lighting would be supplied by the town or by CL&P. The electrical service at the park is very old. The bathrooms will be redone and the gatehouse.
Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission that there would be dredging of the pond and it would make Mixville messy for about a year. The last time the pond was dredged was approximately 20 years ago. A silt barrier could be installed but whatever is done it would be an involved project. The town has to seek approval from the Army Corps of Engineers which could take a long time. Mr. Ceccolini said the two issues are what would be done with the material once its dredged, could it be used in the park or would it have to be moved and what are we going to do with the pond.

Mr. Duffy questioned if the geese are now controlled there? Mr. Ceccolini replied the man is due back in another month. Once you start a program like that you can’t stop or the geese would return.

Mr. Ceccolini said construction on the concession stand at Bartlem should start in February. People are donating their services to have the stand built.

Recreation Programs

Mr. Ceccolini said the brochure is at the printers and families should receive it in a couple of weeks. P&R brochure is online also for viewing. It has been discussed to put the brochures online and print only a small amount of brochures. To have all of the brochures printed it costs approximately $20,000.

Budget

Mr. Ceccolini said P&R won’t get that much in the budget and next year is supposed to be worse. The equipment account took a big hit for money.

Mr. Nankin noted the regularly scheduled replacements are something P&R cannot do without.

Mr. Ceccolini said the tractor is coming up soon and that is a major expense. With the new attachment for the fields, a low gear tractor is needed to work properly. P&R can grow all the fields without pesticides with that piece of equipment.

COMMISSIONER’S FORUM

Mr. Nankin said he was requested by the Town Manager to hand out the Conflict of Interest Charter to everyone to read. If anyone has a conflict of interest, you would have to report it and/or leave the P&R Commission. P&R has had not Ethic violations thus far.

Mr. Kushner said the softball league has 34 teams so far for the tournament. He is hoping the concession stand will be done for Memorial Day weekend.
Mr. Duffy spoke for the P&R Commission and wanted to extend congratulations to the football team for their success this year. Also, the girls swim team received a state title and has our congratulations as well.

Mr. Fracasse wished everyone a happy new year.

Mr. Nankin told Doug Levins he is welcome back anytime.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

**VOTE:** The motion was passed unanimously by those present. The meeting adjourned at 8:04 P.M.

Attest:

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Claudia J. Baron, Clerk