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

Present: Jim Nankin, Chairman, Steve Trifone, Paul Fracasse, Rich Pulisciano, Paul Fracasse and Ira Kushner

Staff Present: Bob Ceccolini

Absent: Patrick Duffy 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 THE SEPTEMBER 1, 2010 MEETING

MOTION: Mr. Fracasse made a motion to accept the September 1, 2010 minutes.

MOVED: Mr. Trifone seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously by those present.

COUNCIL LIAISON

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None
CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Communications

Mr. Nankin discussed a letter he received dated September 22, 2010 from members of the Public Safety Commission addressed to Tim Slocum, Chairman of the Town Council. The letter contained information pertaining to painting crosswalks to improve the safety for park users. It included ideas of trail markings and street markings. The Commission wants to paint the crosswalks similar to the Cape Cod Rail Trail which is shown in pictures. The pictures indicate painted yellow crossing signs bordered with white paint for trail markings and street markings and appropriate signage. The Public Safety Commission anticipates P&R’s recommendation.

The P&R Commission discussion entailed concerns of people not slowing down from the trail and entering the crosswalk into traffic. The concern is that cars do not have a chance to react.

Mr. Nankin suggested putting the word stop before crossing in the yellow markers on the pavement. Or, stop ahead with road crossing.

Mr. Fracasse suggested it be written on the street before the path.

Mr. Nankin said P&R does not have control of the roads but wonders if we are doing enough.

Mr. Kushner said he believes more could be done. He added that the crosswalk should be yellow and state caution, slow down on the trail. He said ten feet in it should be painted yellow with a bright line also in line with the stop sign.

Mr. Nankin said there should be yellow line and the word stop on the trail.

Mr. Nankin questioned the cost of the yellow line and the word stop? Mr. Ceccolini responded that it wouldn’t cost much.

MOTION: Mr. Pulisciano made a motion that the P&R Commission read the letter from the Public Safety Commission and supports the letter. The P&R Commission has agreed to do its part on the trail and the PSC can get back to us if they have any additional concerns or questions.

MOVED: Mr. Trifone seconded the motion.

VOTE: All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously by those present.
Pool Discussion

Mr. Nankin informed the Commission that the bubble has a tear in it. The location of the tear is where the door collapsed last year.

Mr. Ceccolini said that area has been closed off. We are waiting for someone to come out and resew it (patch it). This is the 8th year with the bubble, they normally last 7-10 years. One of six exits is not open. Hopefully, we will get another year or two out of the bubble because it cannot be relined it has to be replaced.

Mixville Trail Project

Mr. Nankin referred to the document everyone was given “Quinnipiac Trail Extension Proposal” and said there has been a request to extend the Quinnipiac Walking Trail through Mixville Park. He noted that it would go over the top of Bethany Ridge and come back down. P&R’s purview extends to the park only (Mixville). The question is do we give our permission for the trail to go into Mixville. It would cut through the riprap.

Mr. Trifone questioned if they can build a walking bridge over it? Mr. Ceccolini responded no, that would have to involve the Army Corp of Engineers. Mr. Nankin said it would be up to the Environmental Planner as to whether they want to go to the Army Corp of Engineers.

Mr. Pulisciano questioned if they are asking us for permission? Mr. Ceccolini replied they are asking us for permission to cut through the park. Mr. Ceccolini said the Commission needs to think about how they are going to get there and what are they going to do when they exit?

Mr. Nankin said there are two concerns: 1.) If we rent out the pavilions, and 2.) the park closes at dusk but people can put their tents up on the trail and camp out for the night.

Mr. Ceccolini said the trail ends at the top of the hill then its private property at the trolley line.

This discussion was TABLED until further review.

WEST MAIN STREET

Mr. Fracasse said the town received another grant and is working on West Main Street now.

Mr. Nankin said the company working on West Main Street is moving along and doing a clean job.
DOG PARK

Mr. Ceccolini said the group for the dog park is coming in to see him on October 21 to get a plan to get more people interested in the project.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION

Mr. Trifone said the Commission changed the barrels along town hall in front to winter cabbage. The Commission voted on Adopt-A-Spot.

Mr. Trifone said the Commission wants to know if more gravel can be placed at the gravel lot by the 90-foot diamond.

The Commission approved a new sign at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church. He also informed that Gerry Sitko gave an update on the trail as to what direction they think the town should do next.

Mr. Ceccolini said he and Gerry Sitko co-wrote a grant last year and he thinks the Council is leaning towards West Main Street to Jarvis.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Park Status

Mr. Ceccolini said the Soccer Club hired Chuck Sherwood who did an excellent job with the organic compost for one field. We are considering the lacrosse field at Bartlem.

CYB has been working on the fields. They are in the last week of fall ball. They have utilized the fields at Bartlem and have done well and the concession stand has been used.

Mr. Ceccolini said the youth football uses our various fields in town and gets moved around a lot. They have requested additional lights at Bartlem. That didn’t work well last time at Quinnipiac; neighbors didn’t like that last year and complained. The football teams cannot add portable lights at Cheshire Park. We are going to cut back the brush on the hill blocking the lights and have new bulbs installed to see if that helps.

Mr. Ceccolini said he is anxious for the turf field so the football teams can use it for practices and some games.
Recreation Programs

Mr. Ceccolini said there has been a drop in numbers for the programs assuming because the brochures are on-line and not physically in people's hands. As they become aware of that, hopefully the numbers will go up.

Mr. Nankin questioned if the side boards outside for announcements could be used to tell them about the brochures on-line? Mr. Ceccolini replied yes.

Mr. Ceccolini informed the Commission that P&R received an award for being organic from the Watershed Partnership.

Mr. Ceccolini said there is a fundraiser for the scholarship fund in name of Greg Schena which will be held in three weeks. High school kids will dress in Halloween costumes. There will be hayrides at Norton Farms from 11 AM to 3 PM on Halloween (Saturday and Sunday). The money earned will go towards his scholarship fund.

Mr. Ceccolini said there is a fundraiser for the turf fields sponsored by Pete DeBishop which entails a free kid’s birthday party at the pool.

COMMISSIONER’S FORUM

Mr. Pulisciano was the only one with a comment and he said “Go Rams”.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Trifone made a motion to adjourn.

MOVED: Mr. Pulisciano seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion was passed unanimously by those present. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

Attest:

Claudia J. Baron, Clerk

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