

## **Park and Recreation Commission**

### **Minutes of the Meeting**

**February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Meeting called to order:** Chairman Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

**Commissioners in Attendance:** Toby Lewis, Mike Kelly, George Caye, Srinivasa Chalikonda, Genevieve Coursey, James Hennessey, William Nowak and Renee Powell.

**Also in Attendance:** Molly Keays, John Caldwell, and Leah Margelony.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion made by Commissioner Kelly and seconded by Commissioner Powell to approve the January 11th minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Input:** Arun, Veeranna and Obeen all spoke on behalf of Cricket in town and how they are now a 501-C3 called South Windsor Athletics and Sports Association (SWASA). They are finishing up their 1<sup>st</sup> Aid and CPR so they can offer Children's Cricket Lessons. Chairman Lewis offered to connect the gentlemen with grants to help them financially with their programming. They are hopeful to also find more time and space for badminton programming in town, as they did for Cricket.

**Report of Council Liaison:** None due to the absence of the liaison.

**Report of the B of E Liaison:** None due to the absence of the liaison.

**Special Reports/Task:** No special reports/tasks.

**OSTF:** No report, Commissioner George Caye reported that their meeting was canceled.

**Report of Parks and Rec. Director:** Molly Keays, Director of Parks and Recreation, provided updates on the following:

- Capitol Projects/Budget season ongoing currently. Upcoming meeting hoping they continue to fund \$200,000 to work on the Master Plan Projects, will know more by March meeting.
- Walk and Wheel Ways updates: Barton and Loguidice have final designs for Phase 1 of the cross-town trail. A Senate and House bond request has been submitted as the application for the next round of the CT Rec Trails Grant is being finalized.
- Spring/Summer Brochure is just about completed and ready to send to printers to be mailed to homes for end of March in time for April Registration.
- Second half of Preschool are full, registration went well.
- 4<sup>th</sup> "R" is doing well, along with Basketball.
- Dodgeball Throwdown filled the gym with 117 children and parents.
- The Parks Crew has put in a lot of hard work into the Old Orchard Hill Facility and have gone over and beyond to make sure the space is live-able and adequate for the community.

Message from John Caldwell, Superintendent of Parks:

- Parks department is up to full staff.
- Crew has done a great job at the Old Orchard Hill facility.
- Crew has done tremendous work on invasives on trails and around the parks.
- 100 yards of millings flattened out at the parking lot at Rye Street Park. This summer will bind up, and the crew will roll it out again.
- Pickleball nets do not come down at the request of the Pickleball community.
- The Crew has redesigned and repaired the fence to the outlet of Desmond's Duck Pond.

- Parks Crew installed a new score board at Rye Street for the lit football field, for the SW Panthers
- Gardeners have cleaned up all their plots and separated organic from non-organic.
- Water at VMP has been treated throughout the winter to help with opening up the pools in time for summer.

### **Discussion Topics**

Sub-Committee: The subcommittee met on February 1<sup>st</sup> and continued the discussion on gaining community support for the facility. The best approach will start with educating the public. We will need to highlight the benefits for each group in the community and tell the story as to why a new facility is important. Potential dates to convey this to the community will be at events this Spring/Summer and will be published in the Directors Message in the upcoming brochure aimed to release mid to late March. In sharing the importance, we are also looking forward to hearing from the community on what they would like to see, and what they are passionate about.

The commission requested a list of community groups and sports contacts so that we can have their support. Molly confirmed that the department has an on-going document for contacting various groups in town.

**Other Business:** No other business.

**Meeting adjourned** at 8:08 P.M. – A motion made by Commissioner Kelly and seconded by Commissioner Hennessey motion passed unanimously.

**Next Meeting:** March 8, 2023

Respectfully Submitted –

Leah Margelony