

Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes of the Meeting
April 12th, 2017

Meeting called to order: 7:34 pm.

Commissioners in Attendance: Michael Kelly, Craig Zimmerman, Al Larson, Bill Nowak, Dan Rezende, Dan Van Horn, and Michael Saimond

Also in Attendance: Ray Favreau, John Caldwell, Matt Riley, Lipi Gandhi (SWHS), Taylor Pavan (SWHS)

Al welcomed SWHS students Lipi Gandhi and Taylor Pavan, attending for school project.

Approval of Minutes: Motion made and seconded to approve the March minutes, passed unanimously.

Public Input: None

Special Reports:

1 - Commission 1-3-5 Strategic/Budget Plan – finalize draft from March meeting

- Remove note from “1 year priorities” in regard to maintaining field as part of elementary school renovation plan (Craig stated this is already covered in school plan)
- Update first bullet note from “1 year priorities” to state revised master plan will continually be reviewed/updated annually
- Replace pictures with more applicable pictures. Such as replace picture of Rye Street fields with a grass field picture for the “1 year priorities”. Replace the recreation schematic with a picture of a baseball and softball field in the “3 year priorities”.
- Add actual photos of Rec. Center (indoor pool, gyms, etc) – perhaps Mansfield Center?

2 - Review Current Master Plan Mapping – determine what stays and what goes

- Decided that Ray will get aerial or drone photos to replace all the topographic maps which are confusing and out of date
- Ellsworth School Map – it was agreed to remove the Ellsworth School map from the Master Plan due to its execution being highly unlikely and low priority
- Ayers Road Map - Ray to obtain SWLL input to the Ayers Road map in regard to how they would like the field configurations (including base lengths of 60 and/or 70 feet). In addition, add proposed lights for the softball field.
- Rye Street Map – needs to be significantly updated with the current field configurations. Include trails and proposed lights for second football/lacrosse field. Include proposed two basketball courts, with lights, located at the current court location.
- Eli Terry Map - Ray to obtain SWLL input to the Eli Terry map in regard to how they would like the field configurations (including base lengths of 60 and/or 70 feet). Provide SWLL info on the BOE plan to construct the new school building and additional parking in current grass locations.
- Nevers Park Map – remove any proposed lights from the new baseball/softball fields. Eliminate the 120 parking spot lot from plan (not needed). Ensure there is no additional storage or concessions included in the plan. If SWLL choses to keep Duprey field as 90 foot field, remove 3rd proposed 90 foot field from Nevers Park plan. Add small soccer/lacrosse field up by recreational backstop for the evolving girl’s beginner type recreational programs. Extend parking lot by the hitting facility and at the soccer/lacrosse fields on Nevers Road
- Due to time constraints of meeting, remainder of maps will be reviewed at next meeting.

3 - Review New Master Plan Outline – verify content

- It was noted that the 11 acre greenspace master plan was contingent on the results of the soil testing (previous uses of the land was tobacco farming which could result in negative soil testing results). Soil testing results is due in the next week or so.
- Due to time constraints of meeting, additional discussion in regard to the master plan outline will be reviewed at next meeting.

Report of Council Liaison: Matt Riley. With the upcoming Connecticut State legislation in regard to concussion protocol, Matt will inform Council of Parks & Recreation's concerns at next Town Council meeting on Monday, April 17. Matt will ask Ray to address this during the Reports of Boards & Commissions responsible to Council agenda item.

OSTF: None

Report of the B of E Liaison: None

Report of Parks and Rec. Director: did not formally review report, all commissioners stated that they reviewed the copy that Ray provided in meeting e-mail with no discussion.

Discussion Topics:

1 - Concussion Legislation - The proposed state legislation in regard to concussion protocol in recreational sports programs was discussed. The proposed law would make volunteer coaches, as well as the town, personally liable for any failure to adhere to the required concussion training, communication documentation, policing of the adherence, as well as the "good faith return to play" of athletes who later show signs of concussions. The commissioners stated that this could be the end of recreational sports for there is a strong possibility that volunteers would not coach, exposing themselves to potential lawsuits. In addition, towns in their best interest should cancel recreational sports since there is no way to police the adherence to the proposed laws. Even if the town was able to somehow police the South Windsor population, many sports have neighboring towns or even states participate in recreation sport competitions (it would be near impossible to ensure all the requirements are in place for these other towns/states as they compete on our fields).

Commissioners have asked Ray to hold an emergency meeting with all the Presidents (or delegates) of the sports programs and request a letter of the effects of the proposed legislation will have on their programs. In addition, the presidents need to reach out to the governing state body of their sport program and request how they are addressing this legislation.

2 - Some additional items discussed were:

- Fence at SWHS nearly finished
- Lighting system at SWLL field needs repair (~\$5,000). Inspection indicated faulty breakers with significant overheating. Use of lights has been banned until repairs are in place (~2 weeks).
- SWLL has scoreboard that they want to install at Major B
- Purchase of Collins sledding hill not going well. Town offer above assessment but below asking price. Commission stated that the hill has historical memories for many South Windsor residents.

Motion to adjourn at 9:35pm by Dan Van Horn, seconded by Bill Nowak

Next Meeting: 7:30pm May 10th, 2017

Respectfully Submitted

Michael Kelly