**Park and Recreation Commission**

Minutes of the Meeting

**June 10, 2020**

**Meeting called to order:** 7:31pm.

**Commissioners in Attendance:**  George Caye, Genevieve Coursey, Ritu Goel, Mike Kelly, Michael LeBlanc, Toby Lewis, Bill Nowak, Renee Powell, Dan Rezende, and John Pelkey.

**Also in Attendance:** Erica Evans, Ray Favreau, John Caldwell, and Kerry Macchi

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion made by Mike and seconded by Toby to approve the March 11th minutes. Passed unanimously.

**Public Input:** None present.

**Report of Council Liaison:** Erica provided an update from the Council. There was some discussion among council members about altering what projects specific funds from the Capital Projects budget were going towards. The council is interested in reallocating funds that were originally designated to South Windsor Walk & Wheel Ways for building or improving trail connections to fence in the Boundless Playground at Nevers Park. The council noted that fencing in the Boundless Playground is a project outlined in the Parks and Rec Master Plan, but has not been completed yet. Deputy Mayor Pendleton was approached by the community about the safety of children on different parts of the playground, and she thought that it would be the right time to do this project. Erica also mentioned that Parks and Rec Commission has consistently funded projects to Walk and Wheel Ways, so the council felt like it made sense to shift the money in order for other projects to be completed.

Commissioners expressed that the Parks and Rec Master Plan is an ongoing, ever-changing document. It is constantly being re-evaluated and the layout of the document is a way to prioritize projects as funds are awarded. When opportunities arise, certain projects that may have been at the bottom of the list, move up to the top. A fence was added to the Parks and Rec master plan project list when a resident came to a Park & Rec commission meeting expressing concern over their special needs child running towards Nevers Road while at the Boundless Playground. As it is a great addition to the master plan list, the original footprint for the Boundless Playground changed with the additions of Jacob’s view and Kevin’s court. The commissioners also noted that SW Walk & Wheel Ways have contributed a lot to the community and were recently awarded the Bronze level award for a Bicycle Friendly Community. It is their goal to achieve a higher status by increasing the infrastructure in the town.

It is the expectation that a progress report of the Parks and Rec Master Plan be ready to present to the Town Council meeting on July 20th.

**Special Reports:** No additional things to report, as the master plan was already discussed during the report of Council Liaison.

**OSTF**: George reported that during their last meeting, they discussed two parcels of farm land off of Chapel Road. The seller is not interested in selling to a developer, so the town is weighing out buy-to-lease options.

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

**Report of Parks and Rec. Director:** Ray provided updates on the following:

* The Avery Street and Deming Street Community gardens are up and running, with thanks to the Parks crew for plowing, staking, and numbering out the plots.
* Our parks have been booming with activity since the COVID outbreak!
* The Tyler Memorial Bark Park has been overhauled with the deteriorating wood chips and replaced with certified wood mulch, that were graciously donated by the South Windsor Jaycees.
* Sports groups are meeting over the next week to discuss the use of the fields now that restrictions have been somewhat lifted.

**SWW&WW:**  Maintained their Bronze level status for a bicycle friendly community.

**Meeting adjourned** at 8:50pm – motion made by Toby Lewis and seconded by George Caye- passed unanimously.

**Next Meeting: July 8, 2020**

Respectfully Submitted – Kerry Macchi, Administrative Secretary