

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes of the Meeting

January 12, 2022

Meeting called to order: 7:28pm.

Commissioners in Attendance: Michael Kelly, Toby Lewis, Bill Nowak, Renee Powell, Miguel Proano, and Dan Rezende

Also in Attendance: Molly Keays, John Caldwell, and Kerry Macchi

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Mike Kelly and seconded by Renee Powell to approve the November 10, 2021 minutes. Passed unanimously.

Public Input: None present

Report of Council Liaison: Counselor Evans shared the resolution that was passed by the town council in regards to forming a Parks and Recreation Facility and Planning and Implementation Committee. She wanted to get the name of a volunteer from the Commission that would like to join the committee. Mr. Kelly asked what the timeframe would be to present a name to council, and Ms. Evans hoped that the commission could decide during the current meeting so that she could bring it to the council during their meeting next week. Mr. Lewis suggested that we suspend the meeting to discuss a nomination, because there were members that were not present. Mr. Kelly made a motion to suspend the meeting and Mr. Nowak seconded the motion. All were in favor. Mr. Lewis then made a motion to nominate George Caye to be the representative for this committee. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion and all were in favor. Mr. Kelly also suggested that we vote on an alternate, since George was not present, and in the event that he doesn't accept the nomination. Mr. Lewis then nominated Mike Kelly as the alternate representative. Mr. Nowak seconded the motion and all were in favor. Mr. Lewis called the meeting back to order at 7:38pm. Before the end of the meeting, George was contacted and accepted the nomination.

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

OSTF: John Caldwell reported that there was no meeting this month.

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

- The town has reinstated the mask mandate for all town buildings and businesses. All Parks and Recreation programs have their own mask and quarantine rules as well which are continuing.
- Capital Improvements Projects update- the committee has preliminarily allotted us \$200,000 and have requested that Mr. Lewis attend the next meeting to discuss the project that is up next, which is hopefully the lights at Rye Street Park.
- We ran many programs and events during the winter months to keep our community engaged.
- Some of the wellness programs have gone back to virtual due to the mask mandates.
- Parks and Rec has added a drop-in Pickleball program for nights during the week that has about 25 participants so far.
- We are ramping up for the Spring programs, and currently working on our Spring/Summer brochure which will go back to being mailed out to South Windsor residents and businesses, for the first time since the pandemic.
- We have a new hire for the Athletics Recreation Supervisor. Kyle Andolina joined our department in the beginning of January.

John Caldwell, Superintendent of Parks, provided updates on the following:

- Rye Street Park updates- The crew has been working on some additional tree cleanup. There is a large Lacrosse wall that is right in the middle of the Pickleball/Dek hockey courts. The Parks Department is working with Aero Crane, and they have generously donated their services to move the wall approximately 126 feet. John is also working with a company that could potentially complete the rest of the work at the Pickleball and Dek Hockey. The crew is also working on cleaning up the downed trees on the mountain bike trails.
- The crew has transitioned over to Winter mode, working on snow and ice removal in the event of a storm.
- The report from the studies done at VMP came back and the pool is stable at this point. It needs to continue to be monitored.

- The trails in the parks have been closed for the winter. There are signs at the entrances that state that they are not maintained. They have groomed one side for walking and left the other side for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.
- The crew is short two employees, but will be testing for new hires this week.
- John gave an update about the skating conditions at Rye Street park. The ice is currently 3.5 inches thick, and needs to be 4 inches for proper skating. They will continue to monitor it and open it if they are able. Molly added that next year, the Dek hockey court will be able to be flooded for another outdoor ice rink option.
- The sign for the John J. Mitchell is currently being constructed.

Other Business: Nothing to report.

SWW&WW: Nothing to report.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57pm – motion made by Mike Kelly and seconded by Renee Powell- passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: February 9, 2022

Respectfully Submitted – Kerry Macchi, Administrative Secretary