

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes of the Meeting

March 6, 2024

Meeting called to order: Chairperson Coursey called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

Commissioners in Attendance: Jackie Balboni, George Caye, Genevieve Coursey, James Hennessey, Michael Kelly, Mitchell Marks, Toby Lewis, William Novak, Renee Powell, Miguel Proano,

Commissioners Absent: Srinivasa Chalikonda, Kristen Kozikowski, Braden Migneault

Also in Attendance: Molly Keays, Director of Parks and Recreation, John Caldwell Superintendent of Parks & Recreation and Jennie Tetreault, Administrative Secretary

Approval of Minutes: A motion was then made by Commissioner Caye to approve the minutes dated March 6, 2024 and seconded by Commissioner Marks. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Input: No public input

Report of Council Liaison: Council Liaison Lewis states that the Town Council would be interested in more information on Parks and Recreation Programing. The PARC tell Toby that the programing is not in their purview.

Report of the BOE Liaison: Commissioner Marks reports on the board of education's budget proposal. The Board Education voted unanimously on February 27 in favor of bringing the proposed budget before the town council for approval. Additionally on March 29th @ 7 pm there will be a joint work session between Town Council and Board of Education to answer any questions the council may have. And finally, April 1 will be the public hearing at 8 p.m. for members of the public who have questions about the proposed budget.

Special Reports: None

Open Space Task Force: Commissioner Caye reports no meeting this month.

Report of Parks and Rec. Director:

- Youth Basketball is set to wrap up at the end of the March, with playoffs being held next week. The Mighty Mites and More Mighty Mites basketball programs wrapped up for the season on March 2nd and finally the Challenger basketball season ended the last week of February.
- Youth Wrestling had tournaments the week of February 4 and the team took home three gold, one silver and two bronze medals!
- Creative Cardio is still in full swing both in person and via zoom.
- Kripalu Yoga is year-round and has 40 participants both in person and via zoom.
- Jukido, Jujitsu and Karate still running both in person and via Zoom
- Learn to Skate to is full for March and April is filling up quickly as well.
- Ski Club wrapped up February 21, we ended the season with a total of 168 participants.
- 4th R saw a lot of thematic fun this month, including Valentine, groundhog and Superbowl related activities. The 4th R training staff also received their mid-year all-staff training.
- Preschool is well into session C. Preschool learned through various, thematic, fun play!
- The SWPRD annual egg hunt will be March 29, 2024, 9-12 p.m. at the High School turf field.

Walk & Wheel Ways:

The South Windsor Walk and Wheel Ways meets the second of every month at the Parks and Recreation facility.

- Currently the commission is working towards starting Phase IA of the crosstown trail project. The early part of this project will be working with Inlands/Wetlands and Eversource for proper permitting.
- The Teen Cycle club is looking forward to starting their second season after a successful first season last summer.
- Bike Safety and Maintenance workshop this month, on March 16 from 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in the gym at the Parks and Recreation Facility at 350 Foster St. Preregistration is required for this event.
- Earth Day clean-up is coming up on, April 13 at the international Magnet School for Global Citizenship located at 625 Chapel Rd. South Windsor, CT at 1 p.m. Registration is NOT required for this event.

- South Windsor Walk and Wheel Ways is always looking for volunteers to help with programming and to sit on the commission.
- The Major Michael Donnelly Land Preserve is still be enhanced by way of repairing/removing bridges over wetlands, filter fabric and stones have been laid.

Message from John Caldwell, Parks Superintendent – Superintendent Caldwell speaks on a variety of tasks his crew has been working on. Including:

- **Athletic fields and Grounds:** The athletic fields remain closed for the winter. In the meantime, the parks crew is working on servicing small equipment that will be utilized for spring cleanup.
- **Parks and Open Space:** Tree work in the open spaces remains a focus. This includes pruning trees and clearing overgrowth.
- **Current Projects:**
- The stormy weather has given the crew an opportunity to focus on “in house” projects, including clean up and organization around the town garage.
- One big project included painting, repairing and relocating an old shed to parks and recreation for storage for summer camp programs.
- A heavy-duty fence has been constructed to help conceal the dumpster near the Fire House II.
- A replacement “Little Free Library” was constructed and installed at the boundless playground.
- The crews are also working on cleaning up the tennis courts on Ayers Rd. Pressure washing to get the mold removed.
- Interviews for Maintainer I are also in progress.
- Walkthrough of the Scantic property. A grant for a study down by the river, to see what the cost would be for clean-up. The river and the cleanup are going to be a challenge with the end goal being an accessible boat launch for the property.

Discussion Topics:

Director Keays shares a few other matters, including.

- The PBC hosted a special meeting on Monday March 3, 2024 with Tom Arcari from QA&M who will be conducting the Facilities Conditions and Assessment, as well as Conceptual Design for modifying the existing facility.

The Spring/Summer 2024 Brochure has landed in resident’s mailboxes. March 27th will be camp registration this year, while the remainder of the registrations will take place April 3 for Residents and April 10 for non-residents

Other Business:

- Updating the master plan will take place over the course of the year during monthly PARC meeting. Chairperson Coursey asks Director Keays if Parks and Recreation would update the information in the first section, which is includes demographical information. Director Keays mentions that the NRPA is a great resource for this information.
- Chairperson Coursey asks that the commission members look at the second section of the Master Plan for discussion next meeting, April 3, 2024.
- Chairperson Nowak asks about the Community Gardens. Director Keays shares \$10,000 donation from Whole Foods to enhance the gardens. And shares that there is a waitlist for the gardens right now.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. A motion made by Commissioner Marks and seconded by Commissioner Hennessey. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: April 3, 2024

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennie Tetreault