Meeting called to order: 7:30pm.

Commissioners in Attendance: George Caye, Ritu Goel, Mike Kelly, Bill Nowak, Renee Powell, Dan Rezende, Toby Lewis, Michael LeBlanc
Also in Attendance: Ray Favreau and Erica Evans

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Toby, and seconded by Renee to approve the July 10th minutes. Passed unanimously

Public Input: Ritu removed her Commission hat in place of her resident hat to express concern over user age conflicts at the skate park. Apparently, older kids are monopolizing the park and often rudely to younger users. Do we need clarification on age limits for use? Ray stated that typically a skate park is for all ages and that it is not uncommon to see older skaters helping young/new skaters. Is parental supervision for the very young a consideration? Ray said that we could follow suit with typical playground use expectations that children under age 8 must be supervised by parent. Are scooters permitted? Per Ray, Skateboards, in-line skates, BMX bikes and non-motorized scooters (like Razor) are and should be allowed.

Special Reports: (Master Plan Progress Report) De-briefing from the July 10th bus tour of the parks system was led by Ray. Highlights included:
1. Little League Complex - at maximum development. Improvements to Pepin Feld to correct drainage is strongly needed. Parks crew may tackle this in-house next Spring.
2. Nevers Park – Nevers Baseball field needs new fencing, dug-outs & lights; Rotary baseball spectatorship is very difficult with size of dugouts. Dugouts need to be sub-surface with bleachers above them for maximum fan visibility; re-visit ornamental fencing at My Friend’s Place, especially to separate the playground from the parking lot.
3. Rye Street Park – other than the tennis courts (which are in deplorable condition) the park is quite satisfactory.
4. Linear Park – although a shame that we don’t utilize the CT River there are many road blocks to development here. Other than the few acres of town-owned land by the boat ramp, all other land along the river is private property. Perhaps it’s time again to re-visit these land-owners to work out a ROW for trails to connect to East Hartford. Minimally the boat ramp needs renovations.
5. VMP – there is still question as to how much worse the settling of the tanks will get and then the amount of resources needed to correct the problem. Estimates are just south of $4 million. Another $4 million on top of the $3.1 million spent to completely renovate back in 2000 raises the question of the best value to the public since this is a seasonal three month facility.
6. Lawrence Road Park – commissioners questioned the restrictions on clearing methods to eradicate invasives. Ray explained the neighborhood uprising years ago that killed the development of the property into an active park as was the original intention and ended up as a passive area only prohibiting the use of any chemical treatments to remove invasive species over-taking the site. Removal must be done my mechanical means only.
7. It was the consensus of the commission that a general statement should be included in the master plan that recommends the investigation of methods to eliminate “useless” open space town-owned parcels to reduce maintenance responsibilities and potentially put any funds generated back into park system improvements that truly benefit the community.

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

OSTF: Nothing to report

Report of the B of E Liaison: Erica updated the commission on the new school projects stating that both Eli Terry and Philip R. Smith new school construction is on schedule and on budget at this time. The design for a new Pleasant Valley School is a concern due to the tremendous growth in student enrollment in that district. The school is currently accommodating nearly 600 students with projections that flirt with 800 in the next 3-4 years! That project goes to referendum in March.
**Report of Parks and Rec. Director:** Ray highlighted official opening of the new restroom facility at Nevers Park on Aug. 27th, the official dedication of Porter’s Hill on Aug. 15th, the completion of a $10,000 renovation of the outdoor basketball court at Wapping, receipt of a $50,000 grant from the state to apply towards renovations at the Wapping tennis courts, appealed for volunteers to assist with the SWPRD 50th Anniversary celebration on Sat., Sept. 14th - need 50/50 raffle ticket sellers to assist the SW Community Foundation, and outlined staffing changes in the department – promotion of Dave Turkington from parks maintainer to Parks Manager, and we began the search and selection process to replace Recreation Supervisors Lauren Bent and Sarah Robinson, fill the parks maintainer vacancy and fill the newly created full time Customer Service Clerk.

**Discussion Topic:** None

**Other Business:** None

**Meeting adjourned** at 9:10pm – motion made by Bill Nowak and seconded by Toby Lewis- passed unanimously.

**Next Meeting:** October 9, 2019

Respectfully Submitted – Ray Favreau, Director (in place of Kerry Macchi, Administrative Secretary out on maternity leave)