

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

MEETING
January 8, 2024

Subject to Commission Approval

The Meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairman Szymanski at 6 PM at East Windsor Town Hall, 11 Rye Street, Broad Brook.

PRESENT: Chairman Szymanski; Commissioners Bagdikian, Lansner, Taylor; Board of Selectman Liaison De Sousa, Director Maltese, and A. Irene Mosher from the Park Office.

ABSENT: Commissioner Simpkins.

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:

A quorum was established as three (3) Commissioners were present.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Michael Ceppetelli, 42 Skinner Road, Broad Brook

- Basketball court lighting at Warehouse Point court – not functional for 3 years – questioned why it could not be repaired with the lights taken down at East Windsor Park
- Abbe Road soccer field lighting is allegedly held up by State paperwork when in reality a Planning and zoning appeal.
- State grant \$600,000 for Abbe Road lighting and East Windsor Park playground. Questioned what portion goes to each project and will tax dollars cover balance.
- Stated that litter being blown onto the property 42 Skinner Road is still a problem and nothing is being done to alleviate the problem.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MOTION: To APPROVE minutes of September 11, 2023 Meeting as written
Bagdikian moved/Lansner second/VOTE: In favor: Unanimous**

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. None

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Budget 2024-2025
Informational point: The Director is working with 1st selectman and Finance director to establish the budget figures which should be available at the March meeting.
- b. Financial Accounts review
 - Year to date figures as of 1/4/2024 were in the packet the Commissioners received.
 - The Director stated that the Department is in good financial standing for this time of year.

- Preparing for things that may happen over the winter.
- A freezer and a refrigerator broke down at East Windsor Park and had to be replaced.

c. 2024 User fees for field rentals and parks

- Set field rental for \$150 per game due to installation of the lights – going forward will be able implement rate.

MOTION: To set the rental field for Abbe Road Soccer fields at \$150

Bagdikian moved/Taylor second/VOTE: In favor: Unanimous

- The director requested that the setting of Park Fees be tabled until the next meeting. There is an issue of charging people who use the Park. The Director would like to take a holistic approach to come up with an appropriate plan

MOTION: To table the discussion of Park Fees until the next meeting

Taylor moved/Lansner second/VOTE: In favor: Unanimous

d. Summer Park Update

- The Commissioners were given a 3-year comparison of all fees and attendance records at the Park. The Director noted that all the funds go into the general fund and are not given to Parks and Rec.
- This year was extremely wet with a minimum of 10 days when the park was not able to open, plus several days when the park closed after ½ day. Also, some rentals were canceled because of the weather. Commissioner Szymanski stated that the figures for this past year and 2021 were similar. 2021 was also a very wet summer. The director also stated that the swimming income was different because the Department had received a grant for free lessons for East Windsor residents. 94 Swimmers took part in the swim program.
- Included in the Commissioner's packets was an In depth report from Samantha Charette, Recreation lead.
- Commissioner Szymanski would like to have a count of the number of children who use the Splash Pad. The Director said she would look into it.
- Fall afterschool programs included: Art Adventures, Mad Science, and Food explorers. Data from these programs will be available in March per the request of Chairman Szymanski.

e. Park directors report

Project Update:

- East Windsor Park playground – Playground is installed. Still in process – drainage, surfacing of playground, paving of Parking area, grading and seeding. May 1st is the goal to open the playground.

- Abbe Road –Lights have been installed. Need to do some grading and seeing; Have an app to turn lights on and off remotely; concrete pads for the shelters provided through an Eagle project have been poured. Shelters will be anchored in the spring.
- Scout Hall/Community center project: the contractor has been selected. Paperwork is with attorney for signature.
- Osborne field: The facility is currently being surveyed; plan to install pickle ball courts.
- Outlet Structure at East Windsor Park; waiting for feedback from DEEP
- Panther Plunge: February 17th; registration at Noon; plunge at 1; plan to have DJ and food trucks.
- Presently using an alternative Yoga instructor due to an injury to our regular instructor who plans to return for the spring session.
- Kids fishing derby – May 4th – gathering data as to how many years this event has happened – possibly 30+
- Google form has been sent to last year's staff to see how many anticipate returning this summer.
- Plan to align with an university to get an intern again this summer.

MOTION: To ACCEPT the Park Director's report as presented
Taylor moved/Bagdikian second/VOTE: In favor: Unanimous.

Abbe Road Soccer Complex/ East Windsor (Reservoir) Park/Pierce Memorial Park (Windsorville)/Prospect Hill Park (Warehouse Point)

CORRESPONDENCE

None

MISCELLANEOUS

First Selectman Jason Bowsza stated that Melissa Maltese was the recipient of the Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association Outstanding Professional Award.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Bills were approved by Commissioner Taylor

ADJOURMENT

MOTION: To AJOURN MEETING AT 6:24 pm
Bagdikian moved/Taylor second/Vote: In favor Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted

Alma Irene Mosher
Recording Secretary