

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

SPECIAL MEETING
March 18, 2024

Subject to Commission Approval

The Meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairman Szymanski at 6:01 PM in East Windsor Town Hall, 11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, CT

PRESENT: Chairman Szymanski; Commissioners Bagdikian, and Lansner,; BOS Liaison DeSousa; Director Maltese, A. Irene Mosher from the Park Office.

ABSENT: Commissioner Simpkins and Taylor

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Noreen Farmer 247 South Water Street, East Windsor

Ms. Farmer stated that she wanted to compliment the Parks and Rec Department for all the good things that have happened in the community. She stated that her granddaughter did 2 rounds of swim lessons last summer and had a wonderful time at the East Windsor Park during the summer. She also stated that she is looking forward to the new playground opening.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MOTION: To APPROVE minutes of the January 8, 2024 Meeting as written
Bagdikian moved/Lansner second/VOTE: In favor: Unanimous**

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. 2024 User fees for East Windsor Park

Copy of proposed rates for East Windsor Park this season. The director stated that she felt it was appropriate to eliminate the residents' fees for entrance into the Park. The rental cost for the pavilions would remain the same because there are services connected to the rentals. There will be a loss of revenue for the general fund but will give the ability for residents to enter the park without a fee. The number of residents and nonresidents entering the park will still be recorded. Residents will have to show an ID proving they are residents each time they enter the park.

Commissioner Szymanski asked if residents would get some type of season pass. The director responded that could happen but then it could be shared so the best course of action would be to have residents show their ID every time they entered.

Commissioner Szymanski also asked about young people entering the Park. Would they have an ID? The director stated that she would work with the Superintendent

MOTION: To ACCEPT the 2024 Park user fees.

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

NEW BUSINESS

a. Budget 2024-2025

The Commissioners were given a copy of Director Maltese's presentation as presented to Board of Selectman which included a copy of slides. They also received a copy of the budget numbers showing both the numbers that the Director requested and the numbers after First Selectman Bowsza made changes before submission to Board of Selectman.

The Director pointed out that the salary line increase is a result of the state mandated minimum wage increases of 56%. That also forces an increase for the Permanent Part Time positions. The full-time salary increase is contractual.

The increase in Professional Services is because of the Summer Concert Series. The increase in Site Improvement is to account for much needed repairs to the dock to ensure safety. The dock project will be requested in next year CIP.

b. Upcoming Spring Events

The Commissioners received a copy of the March event calendar which includes Park and Rec events and events from other organizations. Charity Basketball Game – Friday March 22 beneficiary of gate collected which will support scholarships for programs.

The Commissioners also received the following flyers for upcoming events.

- Charity Basketball game income will support summer programs through Social Services for hardship applications.
- Breakfast with Easter Bunny – income will support summer programs through Social Services for hardship applications.
- HKR starting April 14 – National sponsor – Musselman's applesauce

c. Park Director's Report

- Fishing Derby – first Saturday in May with Broad Brook Angling club – donating prize money – already given fishing poles that were donated to Community Services
- \$183,234 grant award funds to be used for comprehensive summer enrichment program, will go to school 8:30 -11:30 and then to Park for camp until 4:30. All fees for this camp will be through this program,
- Afterschool numbers: Art-Ventures (Broad Brook) Fall – 12 participants Winter – 15 participants; Mad Science (Broad Brook) Winter 12 participants; Food Explorers (Broad Brook) Fall Baking – 7 participants, Holiday Desserts –

7 participants; iCodes: Claymation Creation (during February Vacation) 5 participants.

- Programs on deck for the spring; ICode during April vacation; Home Alone Safety
- Through the East Windsor Athletic club: purchase of a Gaga pit which is portable and will be used at various events. Also purchased permanent corn hole boards for the Park.
- \$500K from ARPA will provide: 2 pickle ball courts at Osborne. To do this the batting cages will need to be relocated to a place that is closer to their fields; replacing hoops which will be permanent not adjustable; new lights have been purchased and will be installed soon; sidewalks and parking rails at volunteer park.
- Currently taking applications for summer staff. The camp director and several of the lifeguards are coming back. Samantha has partnered with Enfield Park and Rec to teach lifeguard classes.
- The Canopy on the new playground is up. It is a beautiful sunshine color. The rubber ground cover will be installed as soon as the weather is conducive. There will be a story board around the playground. The first book will be donated by Abby's Help Hand "I Can Do It, So can You! Be Brave!
- A story board from school may be installed on the trail in Melrose trails.
- The concrete pads have been poured at Abbe Road and the shelters will be going out.
- The Department has been gifted an AED from East Windsor Soccer Club

Broad Brook Pond Park/East Windsor (Reservoir) Park/Prospect Hill Park (Warehouse Point)/Warehouse Point:

**MOTION: To ACCEPT the Director's report as presented:
Bagdikian moved/Lansner second/VOTE: In favor: Unanimous**

CORRESPONDENCE

None

MISCELLANEOUS

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Bills were approved by Commissioner Bagdikian

ADJOURMENT

**MOTION: To AJOURN MEETING AT 6:28 pm
moved/ second/Vote: In favor Unanimous**

Town of East Windsor
Parks and Rec Commission
Special Meeting March 18, 2024

Respectfully Submitted

Alma Irene Mosher
Recording Secretary