

TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING
September 14, 2020
Subject to Commission Approval

The Meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairman Szymanski at 6:05 PM in the Parks and Recreation office, Town Hall Annex, 25 School Street, East Windsor, CT

PRESENT: Chairman Szymanski; Commissioners Bagdikian, and Taylor; Director Maltese, Recreation Lead Samantha Charette, A. Irene Mosher from the Park Office.

ABSENT: Commissioner Simpkins. BOS Liaison DeSousa

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 8, 2019/May 11, 2020

MOTION: To have amend the date of the minutes approval from July 8, 2019 to May 11, 2020

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

MOTION: To APPROVE minutes of Meeting as amended:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

a. East Windsor Dog Park

1. Barktoberfest has been cancelled. The Dog Park committee decided that it would not be feasible this year due to all the Covid19 guidelines which would greatly restrict. They are hoping to come up with alternative fund raiser.
2. Issues: There is a gentleman who has no dog but frequenting dog park and gives treats to the dog. They do have partial plate from his car and his description. There was an incident las year when a dog became ill and passed away last year after being at the park. The Director stated that we do no want to become liable if a dog were to become ill from eating one of the treats.

The hurricane did a great deal of damage to the Enfield dog park. Consequently, there has been an uptick in the number of people coming to our park. There is a concern about social distancing and masks. There is sufficient signage at the park stating that there should not be any large groups and when social distancing is not possible, masks must be worn. There have been small dogs on large dog side and people bringing children. We are trying to be more vigilant in visiting the part more often and reminding people of the requirements.

The director stated that she would like to sit down with the Police Chief and ACO and discuss how best to handle the situation.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Financial accounts review

Spending is less than what we would have seen at this time in previous years, mainly because the Park has not been open. The Director stated that the department is being mindful of how we spend money so that when we are able to open, we will have the funds to adequately prepare.

b. 2021-2022 through 2025-2026 CIP

The Park and Rec department receive nothing through CIP last year. This year's guidelines are identical to last years. Director Maltese will resubmit everything that was submitted last year if she can get new numbers from the vendors. She is working on firming up numbers for the four items she plans to submit.

1. **Master plan:** An outside agency would come into town and do a full assessment of the parks and playgrounds. They would ascertain what the community would like to see happen in Parks and Rec. The Director is looking to get the community to buy into the direction they would like to go. The cost could be \$33,700.
2. **Playground replacement plan:** There needs to be money set aside to replace and repair equipment at the various parks and playgrounds. Much of the equipment is worn out. The playground behind the Annex was taken out leaving only the Boundless playground. That playground had been in place when the Annex was still a school. The Director stated that she had been asking for these funds for 10 years. Commissioner Taylor asked way the Pond was green at Broad Brook Pond. The Director Maltese state that the Park and Rec department takes care of the grounds but the pond itself is the responsibility of the Town. There has been little rain and a lot of geese, hence there is a lot of algae.
3. **Expansion and renovation of fields:** The Director stated that Parks and Rec Department will no longer be using the Public School grounds or buildings due to Covid19. Soccer fields have been developed at Osborn Park and East Windsor Park. The second softball field at East Windsor Park has been removed and replaced with a full-size soccer field.
4. **Basketball court expansion:** Director Maltese stated that she is still looking for a way to add a second basketball court at East Windsor park Commissioner Szymanski stated that the courts are well used especially in the evening and asked were a second court might be put. Putting two side by side in the current location was not a feasible option. SZ: Asked where it might be a good spot? Director Maltese stated that she originally wanted to put side by side at the current location, but this turned out not to be feasible. Looking for another spot. And may possibly be able to put two side by side going the other way.

c. Program Update: Summer and Fall

Recreation Lead Charette gave a wrap up of summer activities and plans for the fall programming.

Summer Programs included:

1. Food Explorers & Jungle Themed Art Camp which were held in Person at the Town Hall Annex the end of July
2. This Box ROCKS which was a Camp in a Box Program for Summer 2020. Each week had a different theme and the box included a variety of activities to go along with the them. There were 3 boxes, each contained 2 weeks supplies.
3. Thursday night drop in events including: Craft and Popsicle Nights; Tie-Dye T-shirt day; rock painting; chalk your spot, Zoom bingo with pizza from Golden Irene; and the Kona Ice Truck. The Thursday night events will continue as long as weather permits.

4. Take home craft kits for Mother's Day; Father's Day; 4th of July; and Luau kit;
Fall Program: This year programs will be held in the meeting room at Town Hall and at the Town Hall Annex.

1. Art Adventures – Where the Wild Things Art
2. Mad Science – Funky Focus and Loco Motion
3. Food Explorers
4. Home Alone Safety Class
5. Sports and Fitness: Soccer Shots and Healthy Kids Running
6. Adult Fitness Classes: Yoga (In person and virtual); Personal Euphoria
7. Dance Classes will be 8-week sessions focusing on foundation and technique.
8. Scarecrow contest: Asking public to vote on the them via Facebook

d. Park Projects Update

1. **Abbe Road restroom** electrical work will be completed this week. Currently working on a punch list. The Director Maltese stated that the bathrooms are beautiful. Until they are complete there will be a porta let in place.
2. **Splash Pad** electrical (bonding on the pad) inspection this week. A utility shed was built and will be painted, and concrete will be poured this week.
3. **Band Shell** The lumber for the bandshell will be delivered October 3, 2020 and work will begin as soon as it arrived. Director Maltese stated that she wants to have some kind of concert there in the fall.
4. **Dredging of Reservoir:** While the water was out of the reservoir over the summer, 200+ yards of material was removed. This will help with the water quality. The catwalk and the dock were both painted over the summer. The spillway invert has been repaired
5. **New Soccer field** and goals were installed at the Park. CREC Civic Leadership School donated the goals. They will be using the field for practice when it becomes practical to do so.
6. **New signs** will be installed at Broad Brook Pond and Abbe Road this week.
7. **Preparing pavilion** for Seniors to use for Chair yoga and other drop in programs
8. **Tree Removal** Working with Beaver Tree to remove damaged and diseased trees. Residents near the Park have been notified of the work.

9. **Storm clean** There has been a tremendous amount of clean up in the Parks following recent storms. Director Maltese thanked all DPW workers for the invaluable assistance.
- e. **Park Director's Report**
Director Maltese stated that she and her staff are looking for ways to engage people and get them outside. She wants to do more nature type programs. The issue is: how to integrate and follow stringent guidelines of Covid19. People have been very accommodating to following the guidelines. She stated that there are no definite plans in place for Halloween or the Holidays. She stated that both she and First Selectman Jason Bowsza are looking to create some kind of event for both Halloween and Christmas while complying with the executive order.
- f. **2021 Meeting Dates Motion**
MOTION: To Accept the meeting dates for year 2021
Taylor moved/Bagdikian second/VOTE: In favor unanimous

Abbe Road Soccer Complex/Broad Brook Pond Park/East Windsor (Reservoir) Park/ (Osborne Field) Park:

CORRESPONDENCE

None

MISCELLANEOUS

Director Maltese stated that she had had a call from ON Time Sports requesting sponsors to create T-shirts for High school athletes for the fall season; The cost \$375 for small ad; \$475 for medium size ad; and \$650 for a large ad. There was discussion among the Commissioners. Commissioners Bagdikian and Taylor preferred waiting. Commissioner Szymanski stated that since we have little income at this point, we should wait. He also stated that no one has any idea what is going to happen with fall sports. It was decided to wait and possibly reconsider at another time.

Commissioner Szymanski informed the commission that the Athletic club purchased stone dust for the middle school walking trail and it was ready for use. Thank you to DPW for putting down the material

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Bills were approved by Commissioner Szymanski

ADJOURMENT

MOTION: To AJOURN MEETING AT 7:05 pm
Taylor moved/Bagdikian second/Vote: In favor Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted
Alma Irene Mosher
Recording Secretary