

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

MEETING
September 13, 2021

Subject to Commission Approval

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

PRESENT: Chairman Szymanski; Commissioners Bagdikian, and Taylor; Board of Selectman Liaison DeSousa; Director Maltese, Recreation Lead Charette 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

Martha Ceppetelli, 42 Skinner Road, Broad Brook, CT. Had questions and concerns. 1. She understood that the splash pad would be revenue generator for the town. How many people used the splash pad and how much revenue was realized? What matrix do you use to measure the results? Review for camp. Are other towns allowed to attend? She stated that the income and expenses for camp should be posted online? Are children from other towns allowed to attend and are taxpayers paying for them.

Michael Ceppetelli, 42 Skinner Road, Broad Brook, CT. Would like to have an update on the Master Plan. There has been no communication. He understood that the tree project was halted for the Master Plan. He wants to know how the Master Plan will be moving forward. He thinks there should be better communication than there was with the tree project. It has been six months since tree removal, and nothing has been done. He sees no evidence of anything being done. He still walks the park and absolutely does not understand spending thousands of dollars for an access walk to the beach but once you come to the end of the walk there is no way to get on the beach in a wheelchair. So basically, it does not reach its destination. The Park is not adequately maintained. Many residents are seeing tax increases when other towns have reduced their taxes. This is not going to fly. Why is there no review? The town needs to justify this spending. Also there is not way the camp made any money.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: To APPROVE minutes of Meeting on July 12, 2021, as written

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

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Financial accounts review

The Commissioners were given a copy of the Munis report of September 1, 2021, which showed the Department on track for this time of year. The Commissioners were also given a copy of the three-year comparisons for East Windsor Park income which goes into the Town of East Windsor general fund. She noted that there were no swim lessons this summer which would account for the fact that this year's figures were approximately \$5000 less than 2019. (the last year the park was open.) But the income was at \$28,150.80. Pavilion rentals were down just a little down this year – they were slow starting in the spring and some of the larger corporate rentals did not happen this year. Waterfront was closed for few weeks. The Park was kept open with the splashpad at a lower entry fee. There was no snack bar. There were also less visits from large rentals due to COVID which contributed to lower income. Chairman Szymanski asked if there were parties at the Splash Pad since these were part of the original plan. The Director stated that the parties did not happen this year but are in the plan for next year. She also stated that it is hard to count how many people use the splash pad since they tend to go back and forth between the waterfront and the splash pad. There was a high demand for extended hours last part of season and that was done. The Director also pointed out that the that the funding for the Camp program comes from the Program account which is completely separate from the Town General fund and is funded through fees collected for programs and donations.

b. Program update: Summer and Fall

Recreation Lead Charette reported on the summer activities and the upcoming fall activities.

Camp:

- There was an average of 35 campers per session. 62% of the campers were from East Windsor. This program is funded through the Parks and Rec Program account which is not part of the Town of East Windsor General fund. After expenses, including salaries for staff, there was a balance of \$541.00
- Campers were kept in cohorts which were smaller groups to minimize COVID risks. There was a implementation of more structure into the camp program and instead of field trips there was on site entertainment.

Waterfront:

- Waterfront was closed from July 9th to 22nd due to elevated levels of bacteria (high volume of rain)
- More season passes were sold this year than in past years.
- The splash pad did bring many new visitors to the park.

Fall Programing:

Afterschool programs are returning to inside the schools.

Broad Brook School:

- Art Adventures
- Cheer and Tumble with World Cup All stars
- Mad Science

East Windsor Middle School

- Teen Yoga with Julie G
- Drawing Classes with Matt Ryan

Town Hall Annex

- Fall Yoga (Adults) with a virtual option
- Food Explorers Dinner Club
- Futsal & Street soccer
- Friends-R-Fun Preschool Playtime (weekly playgroup for ages 2—5)

Other Programs & Special Events

- Dance Classes with Miss Jill & Miss Shayla –Special registration night on September 23rd for parents and children to meet the instructors and learn about the classes.
- Haunted Highway Drive Through Trick or Treat: October 28 at East Windsor Park (rain date the following week (Nov. 4) Eleven booths have signed up so far.
- Healthy Kids Running Series: Started September 12 at East Windsor Park with 29 participants registered
- Soccer Shots: Held at Abbe Road. This replaces our typical Tiny tots soccer Program
- Town of East Windsor Scarecrow Contest: This years theme is the Olympics.

Summer Concert Series

- Averaged 250-300 participants
- Great feedback from attendees
- Will be putting a Google Form out when ready to schedule bands for 2022 to solicit request
- Brought new people into the Park and promoted a sense of community.

c. Master Plan update

Director Maltese gave the Commissioners a copy of the RFQ results. There were six bids received. The BETA Group Inc. was the low bidder. The bids will now go to the

Board of Selectman on Thursday who will review the bids and award the contract. They will facilitate community meetings.

S—Supply the scope of services. How is it monitored and by whom. Contract drawn up in contract. Director Maltese, Public works and First Selectman will monitor progress. All specifics are included in the contract. B—where are the companies from? Beta group is out of Hartford. Berry Dunn in Main, Weston & Sampson, Massachusetts, Barton & Loguidice, New York, BL Companies, Connecticut and BSC Group is out of Glastonbury.

d. Park Director's Report

Director Maltese first thanked her staff for a successful summer. She stated that they worked hard to stay COVID compliant and till have a fun year.

There was a successful anniversary celebration for BBFD. There have been request for the event to be held yearly. The parade brought many people to park who had never seen it before.

The Director restated that the Concert series was successful. She stated that it was good to see families come and enjoy the Park.

The Walk for Abby will be hosted at East Windsor Park on October 2nd. The Director encouraged everyone to come and enjoy the day.

The Director stated that it was good to be able to use the schools again for afterschool programing.

Fall soccer will be run soccer by EW Soccer Club. The Director thanked DPW for all they do to keep the fields set up and in good condition. There have been lights installed in the band shell so it will be easier to see performers as the sun goes down.

The Department is continuing to work with DPW on the erosion controls. There was so much rain in a short period of time that many areas were flooded and are still wet.

CIP

Five-year plan

Gaiter – all terrain type vehicle with plow options. Transport supplies and materials around the park. Plow couldl keep dog park open longer. Do smaller side walks
Discussion between B and S as to the advantage of having a plow.

Playground replacement

Abbe road soccer lights

Expansion of fields

Town of East Windsor
Parks and Rec Commission
Regular Meeting

Basketball courts

Pickel ball court 2 to 4 courts depending on funding. Concrete or asphalt – depending on pricing. Sept 30th at town hall.

Park/Pierce Memorial Park (Windsorville)/Prospect Hill Park (Warehouse Point)/Warehouse Point (Osborne Field) Park:

e. 2022 Meeting Dates

MOTION: To ACCEPT the 2022 Meeting Dates are presented

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

CORRESPONDENCE

There has been a request from BBFD to borrow 12 picnic tables for Golf Tournament on September 26, 2021.

MISCELLANEOUS

No miscellaneous business

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Bills were approved by Commissioner Taylor

ADJOURMENT

MOTION: To AJOURN MEETING AT 6:37 pm

Taylor moved/Bagdikian second/Vote: In favor Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted

Alma Irene Mosher
Recording Secretary