

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

SPECIAL MEETING
July 18,2022

Subject to Commission Approval

The Meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairman Szymanski at 6:02 PM in the Parks and Recreation office, Town Hall Annex, 25 School Street, East Windsor, CT

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Taylor

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Michael Ceppetelli, 42 Skinner Ave., Broad Brook, CT

Had several points of concern

- Questioned why repair was needed for the Splash Pad which was opened 2021 and what was the cause of the damage and how can it be controlled.
- Lights on the Pickle ball court need to be repaired
- Account funds for the Parks – figures don't balance -- town taxpayers paying for children to attend the camp – what funds go into the town general fund
- Algae in the water is out of control – the water looks dirty
- A point of reference – the weekend before the 4th of July several state parks were closed when they reached capacity but East Windsor Park only had 25 cars in the parking lot
- Parks and rec department is failing miserably

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MOTION: To APPROVE minutes of the May 9, 2022 Meeting as written
Bagdikian moved/Lansner second/VOTE: In favor: Unanimous**

OLD BUSINESS:

a. 2022-2023 Budget

The Director stated that the budget for Fiscal Year 2023 had been approved

NEW BUSINESS

a. Financial accounts review

The Commissioners were given a print out of fiscal 2022 budget report printed as of June 30, 2022.

The Commissioners were also given a printout of fiscal 2023 budget report as of July 15, 2022

b. Memorial Tree Planting Policy

Director Maltese gave each of the Commissioners a draft of a policy for the planting of memorial trees. She stated that there had been inquiries from 2 families who wanted to have trees planted in memory of a loved one. There had also been a request for a memorial bench. Director Maltese asked the commissioners to take this draft and go through it and it would be voted on at the next meeting.

Commissioner Szymanski asked if this would have to go to Board of Selectman for approval. Director Maltese stated that it did not need to go for approval, but she would certainly share it with them. Commissioner Szymanski also suggested that the Director should look into granite benches because they would not require a lot of upkeep.

c. Prospect Hill Park

Commissioner Szymanski brought up the following issues with Prospect Hill Park

- Basketball court – pavement is in good condition but the trees branches hanging over the court need to be trimmed
- Need to check the basketball poles to be certain they are 10 feet
- Need to have signage at the Park as well as a sign that would give direction to the park

Commissioner Bagdikian asked who would do the work that is needed

Director Maltese stated that DPW would do the tree trimming. She also stated that she would hire a contractor to examine the basketball court and make suggestions. She also stated that Hinding Tennis is the contractor that is usually used for this purpose.

Commissioner Szymanski suggested that if new hoops are needed, that adjustable hoops be installed. The Director stated that the adjustable hoops are now what would be used.

d. July is Parks and Recreation Month

The Commissioners were given a copy of the calendar for July which is Parks and Recreation Month. The Director pointed out that there are activities for each day.

Director Maltese stated that her staff was recognized at the last concert and she again wanted to thank her staff for all the work they do to support the programs.

The day-to-day items on the calendar are to encourage people to get out and do things.

The Director stated that there is currently a Parks and Recreation Month Photo Contest. People can submit their favorite photo that represents Parks and Recreation Month. The top 3 photos will be used as part of promotional materials for next year's Parks and Recreation Month and the winners will receive a gift card. Commissioner Lansner stated that she has seen a good number of people using Volunteer Park and asked if she could take pictures of people enjoying that beautiful venue. The Director stated that it would be fine as long as she asked for permission for the pictures to be used.

Parks and Recreation Month will culminate with National Night out which is August 2, 2022.

Commissioner Szymanski stated that the Concerts at the Park have brought in good crowds, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

e. Park Directors report.

- Director Maltese stated that Parks and Rec functions with two different accounts. Everything collected from the gate fees, snack bar and swim lessons goes into the Town of East Windsor general budget. The income and expenses for camp are part of the Parks and Rec revolving program account.
- Camp is in the 4th week. One day the camp was moved to the Annex because of weather conditions. Several of the staff are new and everyone is doing a good job.
- Swim lessons are back with \$2415 being collected in fees thus far. There are two more sessions, and it is hoped that the numbers will return to the pre-COVID numbers.
- The department will be running enrichment camps such as Babysitting and Incrediflix (movie making)
- There is a possibility of the Parks and Rec Department, Social Services Department and the Senior Center all being under the same roof in what is now Scout Hall and will become a Community Center. The plans are being displayed at the concerts each week and also in Town Hall. After the appropriate Town Meeting the plans will be on the November ballot.
- The attendance at East Windsor Park has been steady. Endfield Child Development Center and Educational Resources for Children from Enfield have utilized the Park on Fridays bring approximately 100 children. They have been very respectful of the general public who are using the park.
- Gate fees and attendances are in line with previous years.
- Pavilion rentals are going well.
- Back to School – planning to have a contest for a child from the school to record the snow day message which would be planned rather than the superintendent voice.

- Received \$800,000 from State Bond money which will be used to install lights on the regulation field at the Abbe Road Complex and create an all-inclusive playground. The plan and scope of work will be submitted for state approval. Commissioner Szymanski asked who would monitor the projects and the Director state that the DPW director would be monitoring the work.
- The Master Plan has been finished. Can now apply for grants to upgrade and do lighting improvements at East Windsor Park and Osborne Park.
- The ballfield lights at East Windsor Park will be removed. Repair pieces and ballast for these lights are no longer available. There are no leagues using the field. Commissioner Bagdikian asked if there are leagues that might want to use the field and the Director stated that there have been no requests. Commissioner Lansner asked if the electricity would still be available if the lights were removed and the Director stated that it would remain. Commissioner Lansner suggested that maybe solar powered lights might be used in the future.

Broad Brook Pond Park/ Pierce Memorial Park (Windsorville)/

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

CORRESPONDENCE

None

MISCELLANEOUS

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Bills were approved by Commissioner Simpkins

ADJOURMENT

MOTION: To AJOURN MEETING AT 6:39 pm
Simpkins moved/Bagdikian second/Vote: In favor Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted

Alma Irene Mosher
Recording Secretary