

TOWN OF SIMSBURY – CULTURE, PARKS, AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
Subject to Vote of Approval – Regular Meeting Minutes – **Thursday, April 25, 2024** – 3 pages

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by David Bush, Chairman, the meeting was held virtually on the ZOOM platform and broadcast on Simsbury Community Media. Other commission members who were present included Kelly Kearney, Michelle Lipar, Tim Walczak and Erik Petersen. The C. P. & R. Director, Tom Tyburski and Board of Selectman Liaison, Diana Yeisley were also in attendance.

**Public Session – Comments limited to 3 minutes per person. Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission**

No comments.

**Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission Member Comments**

No comments.

**New Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission Member- Laura Riley**

**Minutes- February 22, 2024 Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission**

Mr. Bush declared the February 22, 2024 minutes approved and requested that they be put on record.

**Presentations**

None

**New Business**

*Swim-Possible Sensory Friendly Program*– John Thibeault, Recreation Supervisor, shared that this program will be for children who haven't been able to use any of the Town's swimming lessons, particularly for kids on the autism spectrum. This program will be held at Memorial Pool and will be structured towards the ability of the child. The main focus is on water safety. There will be up to nine children in the pool at a time, one instructor for every three children, each child's parent or caregiver is required to be in the pool as well. They will also have lifeguards on duty. The program is filling quickly and there are only two spots left. They will also be redoing Itty Bitty Pool Time.

Mr. Thibeault shared that for Father's Day they will be having a "Foam your Dad" day at the Simsbury Farms pool.

*Summer Program Update* – -Mr. Tyburski shared that registration is going well. Adventure camp still has some spots to fill but all others doing great. The pool pass discount ends 5/31. There is also a lot of interest in sports camps. The pickleball programs have been selling out, there is a tournament coming up and another this summer. They are also busy planning special events.

They had roughly 52 applicants for day camp positions and 30-40 for lifeguards. They are still looking to hire an Adventure Camp Director.

*Simsbury Farms Entry Sign*– Mr. Tyburski shared that the entrance sign to Simsbury Farms was to be replaced this year. The Design Review Board recommended changes such: the street number back on the sign, revise straight edge of the sign to form an arc for greater visual appeal, and include figure of an apple centered at the

top of the sign. If it is over 32 feet, they would have to apply for a variance. Mr. Walczak commented that he liked the last one that reads “est. 1971” so you don’t have to squint to see the small print. Ms. Lipar and Mr. Tyburski agreed. Mr. Kearney recommended requesting the variance. As the current proposals don’t adequately reflect the Farms Complex by causing it to be shrunken down. Ms. Riley also commented that she agrees that the sign should have the arch, the apple and “1971”.

*FY25 Culture, Parks and Recreation Dept. Budget Update* – Mr. Tyburski shared that after many budget meetings and workshops, the budget has finally been sent to the voters. The budget items for C.P.R. include:

- Design work for a proposed splashpad and bathhouse renovation to replace Memorial Pool 150k
- Playground renovations 40k
- Year 5 Park Entrance Sign Replacement 16k
- Greenway Improvement Fund 75k
- Year 4 Athletic Irrigation System 100k
- Replace of Roof/Carpets at Applebarn 75k
- Simsbury Farms Parking Area Drainage 51k
- Small Parks Mower and Ice Rink Edger 32k
- Replacement of 2021 Dump Truck 70k
- Memorial Park Field Mower 60k
- Tariffville Pickleball Court 100k

Additional projects that are to be funded with the Simsbury Farms Golf Course Revenues are:

- Cart Path Paving at Simsbury Farms 200k
- 13<sup>th</sup> Tee Rebuild 2.5k
- Golf Course Drainage Project 15k

Mr. Tyburski shared that the most noteworthy item in the budget is the Memorial Pool project. This was part of the Master Plan as the consultants noted the pool was in rough shape. To rebuild the pool, it would be a 2-3 million dollar project. They are hoping to demo the pool and replace it with a splash pad and replace the bathrooms so they could also be used by the baseball/softball teams during the times when the splash pad isn’t open. The 150k in the budget would allow them to hire an architect/designer to identify what could be done with the building and to design a good/better/best version of a splashpad. The final construction project could cost anywhere from 300k to One Million. There would be a committee formed and public input sessions.

*Simsbury Farms Golf Course Spring Opening Updates*- Mr. Tyburski shared notes from Mr. Johnson and Mr. Verrengia. There are 14 confirmed golf outings so far. Three are new outings, however, they also lost three. They are also waiting on four groups to confirm. Today they will be hosting the US Kids Junior Tournament. On May 29<sup>th</sup>, they are hosting the girls CCC golf tournament. They will also be installing a new senior/junior forward tee this year. They have commitments from all 11 evening leagues and have 8 scheduled Friday Night Couples events.

Mr. Tyburski shared that the staff completed a tune up on every piece of golf course equipment. They also spent time following up on last fall’s OSHA inspection and making sure they were compliant. The Assistant Superintendent developed a training bookless that covers every job the golf course maintenance department is responsible for. They also removed 6 trees that were structurally compromised between #2-#3 fairways. During the upcoming season, the master plan for cart paths and drainage should be developed.

*Simsbury Farms Golf Restaurant Long Term Facility and Vision Study Group- Subcommittee Formation*- Mr. Kearney shared that they are putting together a subcommittee that is focused on bringing a variety of

perspectives of what the future direction of the restaurant might look like. Mr. Tyburski shared that it would also be great for the subcommittee to hear from people in the industry like the Connecticut Restaurant Association and Simsbury Main Street to hear what they feel would be successful at Simsbury Farms.

*Simsbury Farms Field Use Maintenance Fees Policy Study Group - Subcommittee Formation-* Mr. Tyburski shared that sports organizations are asked to pay \$10 per participant per season. Tax payers pay for basic mowing/maintenance. There is a separate fund for special items such as grass seed or chemical treatment, which is where the participant fees come into play. Since costs are rising, the account is in a deficit. Mr. Tyburski shared that he feels it is time to look at this policy again to re-examine what should be charged to this account and what should the sports groups be responsible for. He is looking to create a subcommittee of three-four people to have a discussion on this and hopefully by the fall have a recommendation on a revised policy.

## **Old Business**

*Parks and Open Space Master Plan Updates-* Mr. Tyburski shared that they have made changes to their budget to keep knocking off items from the list such as trail maintenance. He provided the updates regarding the general recommendations in the meeting packet. The biggest item is the splashpad, which was already discussed. They have added new programs such as the sensory friendly swimming along with additional adult fitness classes. They are continuing to build their special events up. Mr. Tyburski shared the Ms. Winters has offered to do some invasive species training with the park's staff.

*Flash Light Egg Hunt on March 28, 2024 Recap-* Mr. Tyburski shared that the event was re-scheduled due to rain. There was a great turnout. He thanked Ms. Coppinger, Mr. Kearney and Mr. Bush who came out that night, they were short staffed due to spring break. The library and Junior Women's League were there as well.

Mr. Tyburski shared that they will be hosting a Touch-A-Truck at Simsbury Farms Rink on June 15<sup>th</sup> from 8-11 a.m. They will have inflatables, a face painter, balloon twister and donuts.

*Community Cleanup Day - April 20, 2024 Recap-* Mr. Tyburski shared that there was community clean-up day last Saturday. They had about 150 people sign up for the event. He thanked Public Works for all their work that day and Paine's for providing a dumpster.

## **Appointments**

None.

## **Adjourn**

Mr. Walczak made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Lipar seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

## **Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting of the Simsbury Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for Thursday, May 23, 2024 at 6:00pm at the Memorial Pool location.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Taylor,  
Commission Clerk