

**TOWN OF SIMSBURY – CULTURE, PARKS, AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**Subject to Vote of Approval – Regular Meeting Minutes – Thursday, April 28, 2022 – 3 pages**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Dave Bush, Chairman at Simsbury Town Hall. Other commission members who were present included Tim Walczyk, Danielle Celli, Kelly Kearney, and Chris Boswell, Lori Coppinger arrived late. The C. P. & R. Director, Tom Tyburski, and Recreation Supervisor, John Thibeault were also present. Guests included Gavin Wentworth from Simsbury Youth Football and Nicole Kodak and Mario Chiapetti from the Simsbury Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council.

**Public Comments**

No comments.

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

No comments.

**Presentation: Simsbury Youth Football**

Mr. Wentworth (President of Simsbury Youth Football) reported on the program in Town. He shared that last year there was not a 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade team in Town. He shared that they play in the Nutmeg Football League and there are nine local teams. They have recently gone on a recruiting campaign via social media and with local signage. He now has a full board of 13 and is in the process of ordering 85 new helmets and shoulder pads. Last year, they had two “A” teams, 18 kids on “B” and no kids on “C. This year he already has ten kids signed up for “C” team, 23 kids for “B” and 30 kids for “A”.

**Presentation: Simsbury Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council**

Ms. Kodak shared regarding the affordable housing initiative they are working on, stating that they have engaged in a yearlong community program on inclusive housing and how to best serve the Town. They will have a large community forum in the fall. Mr. Chiapetti stated they received \$10K from the Hartford Foundation to conduct the yearlong project. They developed a public engagement process with 5 components attached to it including pre and post project surveys. The goal of the survey is to reach 1% of Simsbury residents and develop an actionable plan.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

No changes were made to the March 24, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes. Mr. Bush declared the minutes approved and requested that they be put on record.

**New Business**

*Simsbury Farms Ice Rink End of Season Report-* Mr. Thibeault shared that they did have their best year and they are in a very good place. The biggest change to the income was on rental income because public skating was scaled back and the ice was rented more. He stated while they cut back on public skating times, they actually took in more people. The revenue for public skating this year was 33k versus 22k in 2019-2020. Mr. Thibeault has been speaking with ISCC to develop ways they can work together and benefit each other. The rink mechanical improvements recently done on the equipment were very beneficial this season. He stated this season they added the program “Monday Morning Miles” for adults to come and skate laps, also they added a men and women’s drop-in. Mr. Kearney asked if there were any shortcomings with the facility that the Town

needed to be aware of. Mr. Thibeault stated that there are a few facility updates that could be done, for example, there is a gutter issue. Also, they need to address a way to get people from inside to the rink when it snows as there is limited spots to put snow and it can become slippery. Mr. Tyburski shared that new matting is in the town's capital plan.

*Summer 2022 Program Update-* Mr. Tyburski reported that day camps sold out within weeks of opening. They have a lengthy wait list. The majority of sports camps are getting full as well. He also shared that the specialty camps are doing well and within two hours the pickleball program sold out. Mr. Thibeault shared that as of now they are at about \$60k for season passes with a month of preseason sales to go. The first four sessions of swim lessons are 80% filled, staff has added lessons back in at Memorial as well. The wading pool at Memorial will be open six days a week.

*Hilltop Grille Update-* Mr. Tyburski reported that the Grille is fully permitted to provide beer, wine and alcohol. They have also expanded their offerings to include canned cocktails. They also have two new additions which include a locked storage space as well as an office. An outside outlet was installed to allow for additional lighting and more frequent al fresco cooking. The Wi-Fi has also been improved and they are looking to add a handheld point of sale for at table checkout.

*Friends of Simsbury Farms Projects Update-* Mr. Tyburski shared news on some of the recent donations by the Friends of Simsbury Farms. They donated five new picnic tables for the rear of pool and picnic area which should be delivered tomorrow. Fitness trail signs are here and should be installed too. There is also a large message sign, however it came in damaged and a replacement unit was ordered. An expression swing was ordered back in January, however it still has not arrived. Mr. Johnson has been working hard on the golf course covering up some of the tree roots with the Friends assistance of top soil and seeding. The tee leveling project will begin when it gets a little warmer out. They are looking at the possibility of getting a laser leveler. There is also a new 70 inch monitor for the Simsbury Farms lobby. Mr. Bush stated that the Commission truly appreciates the Friends' efforts in the past, currently, and for the future. Mr. Kearney stated he believes Friends of the Farm is going to be doing some recruiting for members as well as donations as the Board right now is all golfers and they would like different perspectives.

## **Old Business**

*Update of FY 2023 Budget-* Mr. Tyburski reminded the Commission of the upcoming budget referendum on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

*Simsbury Farms 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Update-* Mr. Thibeault shared that the goal is to have events that touch all parts of the facility including golf tournaments, swimming activities, and fun runs. There are many small events and five large ones including a concert with fireworks. The schedule will be finalized in the next week or so.

*CP&R Staffing Update-* Mr. Tyburski reported that the new maintainer has started on first shift and is doing really well. He will be moving to second shift around mid-May. They are now fully staffed at ten. The Town Manager is putting together a staffing plan regarding future needs for staffing. He also shared that they interviewed some part-time recreation coordinators last week and they have selected one, who accepted the job yesterday and is expected to start mid-May.

*Parks and Open Space Master Plan Update-* Mr. Tyburski shared that the reminder signs to pick up after your pet went out on various trails. He stated that they have selected the design for the playground at West Mountain Park which will hopefully be installed later this summer. At the next meeting, he hopes to talk about the Simsbury Farms playground.

Ms. Boswell stated that the C.P.R. page on the Town's website hasn't been updated since 2018. Mr. Tyburski stated he will ask them to link to their website instead which is where he posts the minutes, etc.

**Adjourn**

Ms. Boswell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kearney seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

**Next Meeting**

The next Regular Meeting of the C. P. & R. Commission will be May 26, 2022 at 6 p.m. at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Taylor,  
Commission Clerk