

## TOWN OF SIMSBURY – CULTURE, PARKS, AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Subject to Vote of Approval – Regular Meeting Minutes – **Thursday, January 23, 2020** – 2 pages

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by David Bush, Chairman, in the Main Meeting Room of Town Hall. Other commission members who were present included Kelly Kearney, Gerry Wetjen, Gina Morgan and Rachel Wellman, Sarah Cramer, Liz Keppel, and Danielle Celli. The C. P. & R. Director, Thomas Tyburski, was also present.

### **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Mr. Kearney recommended that the minutes of December 5, 2019 be amended to more accurately depict the long term vision for Simsbury Farms Golf Course Restaurant. Ms. Keppel made a motion to table the minutes of December 5, 2019 to be amended and submitted at the next meeting. Mr. Wetjen seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

### **Public Session**

None.

### **New Business**

*Welcome new member Danielle Celli.* Mr. Bush welcomed the newest commission member, Danielle Celli.

*Review Proposed 2020 Golf Fee Schedule.* A one-page spreadsheet titled, “Simsbury Farms Golf Course Annual Fee Schedule,” was shared. The report shows the rate increases for the prior four years and the proposed 2020 rates. Mr. Tyburski stated that last year the season pass rates, carts and range ball rates were not addressed. While they are not proposing large increases, the proposed 2020 season pass rates would generate an additional \$4700 in increased revenue projection, carts and range balls would produce \$22,845.00 in increased revenue. Mr. Wetjen made a motion to approve the 2020 golf fee schedule as set forth in rate sheet. Ms. Cramer seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

*Review Proposed 2020 Aquatics/Day Camp Fee Schedule.* A two-page spreadsheet titled, “2020 Aquatic and Day Camp Fees,” was shared. Mr. Tyburski reported that there would be more increases here due to the increase in minimum wage, as the summer programs are heavily dependent on seasonal staff. Of note, senior passes are increasing by \$5, non-resident day passes will increase by \$1 and swim lessons will also increase, these rates have all been unchanged since 2016. Mr. Kearney made a motion to approve the recommended proposed 2020 aquatic fees. Ms. Cramer seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Mr. Tyburski stated that last year a 10% preseason sale on day camps was offered, however, this year it will not be offered. Koala Kids will be a half day program once again. The price increase will help offset the fact that admission fees for many of the places the day camps visit are going up as well. Ms. Morgan made a motion to approve the 2020 proposed day camp fees. Ms. Wellman seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

*Review Culture, Parks and Recreating Dept. Proposed FY21 Budget and Six Year Capital Plan.* A three-page spreadsheet titled, “Proposed Six Year Capital Outlay,” was shared. Mr. Tyburski stated that this plan details what C.P.R.’s requests are for seven years out, it is primarily a repair and maintain plan vs. building/improving plan. The plan was submitted to the Town Manager’s office. Mr. Tyburski shared on a few of the larger projects that are on the horizon. Of note, a donor is willing to contribute 15K to turn the two tennis courts at Tariffville Park into 6 pickle ball courts. March 7, 2020 is the day that the Board of Selectman’s Budget Workshop will be held. Mr. Bush urged the Commission to show their support for Mr. Tyburski at that meeting. Mr. Kearney

inquired as to why the restaurant at Simsbury Farms isn't listed in the capital plan. Mr. Tyburski shared that it would be important to have the new vendor in before it is included in the capital plan.

*Simsbury Farms Special Revenue Fund Analysis Report and Workgroup Endorsements.* An eleven-page report to the Board of Selectmen from the Town Manager, Deputy Town Manager, Finance Director and the Director of C.P.R. was shared. Specifically, the funding for community use items was discussed. A special revenue fund workgroup will be formed consisting of two members from the Board of Finance, two from the Board of Selectmen and two from C.P.R. Ms. Celli made a motion to endorse Mr. Wetjen and Mr. Bush to participate in the workgroup. Mr. Kearney seconded the motion. The motion passed with Mr. Bush and Mr. Wetjen abstaining. Mr. Bush requested that the February agenda include a discussion on if C.P.R. is a service, a business or a combination of both

*Simsbury Farms Rink Report.* A one-page spreadsheet titled, "Simsbury Farms Ice Rink Revenue Report - 2019 – 2020," was shared. Figures were collected through the end of December 2019. Mr. Tyburski shared that the first two weeks of the season were lost due to weather and cancellations were a setback of about 15K, however, they are sold out for the rest of the projected season.

*Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 11 at Simsbury Meadows.* Mr. Tyburski shared that they would be partnering with a local realty firm to host an egg hunt on April 11<sup>th</sup> at Simsbury Meadows. They will test it out on a somewhat smaller scale this year to see how it goes. There will be more information about the event at the February meeting.

## **Old Business**

*Simsbury Farms Sign Project Update.* Mr. Tyburski stated that the zoning application was forwarded to the Design and Review Board, there were many issues with the application. The issues were; (1) signs 1 & 6 (welcome and exit signs) were not permitted, as the signs do not conform to zoning regulations, (2) did not get a location plan for the signs to be provided, (3) color scheme does not mention the existing free standing sign, (4) texts for all signs need to be consistent, (5) a border should be around the directional signs and (6) they wanted more information on where the bag drop sign would be located due to its height. Mr. Tyburski stated that this item is on the Design & Review Board's agenda for February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30. Mr. Kearney recommended that Diane Ahern (from Adams Ahern) join them at the February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting as she can provide a better explanation of the designs she came up with. Mr. Wetjen noted that according to the Master Plan, more directional signs are needed.

*Update on Parks and Open Space Master Plan Process.* Mr. Tyburski shared that the draft presentation was done, however, they are going to push back the final presentation from February 10<sup>th</sup> to sometime in mid-March and there will be two subcommittee meetings before that. Mr. Tyburski stated that there are a few projects to finish at the flower bridge in the spring. The grand opening of the Hop Brook Landing Park will be June 6, 2020 from 1-3 p.m. There are already a number of events scheduled down there this summer. Tyburski informed the Commission that there was a study done on the bridge last year, that engineering study showed that the bridge is in need of some repairs/rehabilitation. The cost of this project will be noted in the Town's Capital Improvement Plan in the upcoming budget, and the project is likely to take place in a few years.

*Update on Simsbury Farms Lighting and Fiber Line Project.* Mr. Tyburski stated that they met with the Town's engineers last week and this project is on track for this year. In addition to doing the rink compressor, they will be laying the groundwork in the late spring to put all new LED pole lighting in, and are also going to be installing the fiber line (internet/phone) at the same time. Commission members expressed an interest having

input on the type of light poles/fixtures that will be chosen for this project. The Dept. has also been contacted regarding a possible donation of lights for the new basketball courts. Staff is looking into this.

**Adjourn**

Ms. Morgan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Cramer seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

**Next Meeting**

The next Regular Meeting of the C. P. & R. Commission will be February 27, 2020 at 6 p.m. at Simsbury Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Taylor, Commission Clerk