

TOWN OF SIMSBURY – CULTURE, PARKS, AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Subject to Vote of Approval – Regular Meeting Minutes – **Thursday, January 26, 2023** – 3 pages

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Dave Bush, Chairman at Simsbury Town Hall. Other commission members who were present included Lori Coppinger, Danielle Celli, Christine Boswell, Liz Keppel, Tim Walczak, Michelle Lipar. The C. P. & R. Director, Tom Tyburski and Board of Selectman Liaison, Chris Petersen were also in attendance. Peterson

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.

Minutes- December 1, 2022 Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission

Mr. Bush declared the December 1, 2022 minutes approved and requested that they be put on record.

New Business

2023 Proposed Golf Fees – Mr. Tyburski shared that they are increasing the golf maintenance surcharge. This was created in 2016 and that money is directly funneled to a special account used to purchase mowers, dump trucks, etc. related to maintenance or operation of course based on inflation and the capital plan. They also looked at the trends for resident junior/senior passes, those aren't selling many so those rates aren't increasing. The biggest increase of rates is on senior and adult limited/unlimited season passes. Page two of the handout was discussed which shows a spreadsheet of competitors' rates. Mr. Tyburski stated that they are not raising carts or range fees. He also stated that the Resident/Non- Resident rate system went to a one rate system a couple years ago. The proposed golf fees will go to the BOS on 2/13 for approval.

Ms. Coppinger made a motion to approve the 2023 proposed golf fees. Ms. Celli seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

2023 Proposed Aquatic and Day Camp Fees - Mr. Tyburski shared that he really feels like they are pushing a limit to where they are with their aquatic rates. They did a rate comparison with Avon, Canton, and West Hartford, they are at the top of the scale for daily admissions. He stated they are only proposing rate increases if it is trending up and they are being very conservative with the rates. He stated they are highest for daily passes and swim lessons for the regional community, highest for swim lessons for regional community. They are looking at making May 1st the deadline for the season pass discount. Ms. Lipar asked if there are ever any capacity issues. Mr. Tyburski stated they haven't had to turn anyone away except during Covid. He stated it has gotten harder finding life guards over the past couple years. They have changed the lifeguard pay scale for returning guards due to minimum wage increases. For day camp fees, they are looking at a \$10 /week increase. They are bringing back Awesome Adventure camp. Mr. Tyburski stated that they have a full time position in the budget this year, it would add 15 hours a week to the Part Time Program Coordinator position and a benefit package in hopes of adding more programs.

Ms. Celli asked when registration opens. Mr. Tyburski stated that the tentative date for pool passes, swim lessons, and camps is February 14th. He stated that they are asking for a \$100 deposit per session per kid with no refunds. March 31st would be the cancel deadline and the remainder of the money will be due. They are

going from 90 kids in the camps to 100. Mr. Tyburski stated they are looking for a girls' basketball camp program.

Ms. Coppinger made a motion to approve the 2023 proposed aquatic and day camp fees. Ms. Celli seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Spring Flashlight Egg Hunt with SJWC on March 31 at Simsbury Meadows - Mr. Tyburski stated that they will be partnering with the Simsbury Junior Women's Club to host this event. It will take place at dark with kids 2-5 years old before dusk. There will be 5-6k eggs, the event will not have require a pre-registration.

2023 Summer Program Update –Mr. Tyburski stated that they are contracting with a teacher from Granby to come do art camps, they believe it is more affordable. They are also looking at doing some April vacation programs with her as well. They are bringing back Lego camp, basketball, baseball, disc golf camp, moving to a different tennis vendor and will be offering adult tennis lessons in the morning and at night, offering 8 weeks of junior tennis clinics/camps. They are proposing roughly 72 hours of youth tennis instruction and 30-40 hours of adult instruction. They are also hoping to do pickleball instruction as well along with other special events and concerts such as a few small jazz concerts at the Flower Bridge and maybe a Brunch on the Bridge with music. They are planning to do a last day of school inflatable carnival again and would like to do the Touch A Truck event again. They are still looking at some golf options. Ms. Keppel stated that the previous tennis vendor was there for 25 years, any chance next year doing a review and comparing the vendors. Mr. Tyburski stated that yes, he typically does this with his staff and he does typically share it. He stated they don't do RFPs for summer camps.

Old Business

Tariffville Pickleball Project Update – Mr. Tyburski stated that as part of the buildup to get this project going they had to do a survey over there, the survey showed that the current court location is in the floodway which prevents them from doing a tear out and rebuild without spending a lot of money having a consultant come in to say it's not in the floodway anymore. He stated they looked at other options; they could do asphalt maintenance on the existing court and can put four courts there, however, that is not what they promised and they could possibly have cracks as soon as next year. They thought about other locations, however, they did portray this project as a Tariffville Park improvement project. He stated that the good news is there are draft maps of the new floodway of Simsbury that have been in the review process and it shows that area is not in the floodway anymore and once they are approved they can start building and they wouldn't have to pay a lot of money on a consultant telling them they can build. The downside is that they have to decide what they do for the next year, up to a year and a half. Mr. Tyburski stated that his thought is to repaint the courts #3 & #4 at Simsbury Farms, removing the youth tennis lines and adding pickleball lines. He stated they have talked to the Town Manager and they feel that it's the right thing to do. They can't paint until April-May so there is some time to discuss.

Simsbury Farms Playground Update – Mr. Tyburski stated that the vendor they were working with was very misleading so they stopped working with them. He was given ideas from the subcommittee and he has talked to four other vendors and has tentative designs from two. At the next meeting, he hopes to show the Commission what playground they have ordered. It would still be on schedule for a summer installation.

Mr. Bush acknowledged Ms. Wellman's resignation from the Commission and thanked her for her service stating he appreciates how valuable she has been and appreciates her staying on the playground subcommittee.

Adjourn

Ms. Coppinger made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Boswell seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next Regular Meeting of the C. P. & R. Commission will be February 23, 2023 at 6 p.m. at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Taylor,
Commission Clerk

DRAFT