

TOWN OF SIMSBURY – CULTURE, PARKS, AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Subject to Vote of Approval – Regular Meeting Minutes – **Thursday, March 30, 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 Eric, Petersen, Lori Coppinger, Danielle Celli, Liz Keppel, Tim Walczak, Michelle Lipar, and Kelly Kearney. The C. P. & R. Director, Tom Tyburski and Board of Selectman Liaison, Chris Petersen 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.

Minutes- February 23, 2023 Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission

Mr. Bush declared the February 23, 2023 minutes approved and requested that they be put on record.

New Business

Welcome to new CP&R Commission Member Erik Petersen- The Commission members introduced themselves and welcomed Mr. Petersen.

Simsbury Farms Golf Course Opening Updates – Mr. Tyburski shared that the golf course officially opened up this past Monday. Mr. Sparks shared they anticipate starting on Saturday and their intention is to be open weekends for the first few weeks. They plan on dialing it back to the simplest points. There will be some healthier options, some cold options, some self-serve options and still some fried options. They want to have a static time with a team member on the course even for a couple hours in order to be available for guest feedback, a league member conversation or someone planning an event. During couples' leagues on Friday nights, they would like to bring that forward with some outside dining and music. They are hoping to ramp up the liquor options as well. They will have one menu with breakfast options, young adult options and non-alcoholic options then on the other side it will have great craft cocktail options. They worked during the winter to get their hotdog cart up and running. They are re-working their banquet menu, simplifying that as well. They also intend to have a welcome back golfers' event on April 27th. Mr. Sparks stated he is working on a gluten free bread menu right now. He also stated that staffing is still a challenge.

Mr. Tyburski shared the Golf Superintendent's report. The course made it through the winter in good shape, better shape than last year. They removed a tree or two from behind the #8 green and three pear trees were removed in another location because of an invasive species and they were too close to the green, this should improve the playing conditions in the rough and help the greens due to lack of root encroachment. There was also a new net installed at the driving range which was purchased by the prior superintendent. The dam project started in the beginning of February, that project is coming to a completion in the next two to three weeks and then new vegetation will have to be established in the new dam bank. The Friends of Simsbury Farms have agreed to fund a new aerator fountain for the big pond on #3. Mr. Tyburski stated that they are having extreme issues with parts and equipment on the golf course side. They ordered a dump truck in September which they aren't going to get until late summer. Friends of Simsbury Farm and the Simsbury Men's Club and the Town have decided to partner on another greens roller, however, it is a 12 month wait before that comes in. They will also be putting up a fence between the 14th green and 15th tee to keep people from walking that hill. Mr.

Tyburski reported that the golf irrigation project is going to start in July and go through the summer. They were able to get the additional funds needed for the project from the Simsbury Farms fund balance. He stated that all the leagues are back from last year with at least the same or larger numbers than they had. They are also already ahead on 2023 passes. He shared the status of the building projects that were funded over the last two years through the BOS, Board of Finance and voters; finished a new roof on the clubhouse last week, put new flooring in both restrooms, new countertops and sinks will be installed in both restrooms next week. Additionally, he stated that almost all the 2022 golf outings have re-booked for this year.

Mr. Bush asked how the course irrigation work will be communicated to the golfers. Mr. Tyburski stated they will post on Facebook and email as that time frame approaches. There will also be signage coming off the parking lot letting people know about the work they are doing.

Flashlight Egg Hunt on Friday, March 31 -Mr. Tyburski shared that tomorrow night is the egg hunt, rain or shine, at Simsbury Meadows. There are 10,000 eggs which will be split up by age category. There will be an Easter Bunny there with backdrop for photos. The Simsbury Junior Women's Club will be assisting with this event.

Community Cleanup Day on Saturday, April 22 – Mr. Tyburski shared that they have started to sign people up to clean up a specific piece of trail, a park, or street. Gloves and bags are provided and there will be a dumpster at Town Hall. A lot of different groups are involved with this project including Paines, Public Works, Ms. Abbuhl from the Board of Selectmen, and Farmington Valley Trails Council. Latimer Lane PTO is taking on the trail section from the commuter parking lot down to the Avon line.

Old Business

FY24 Budget Process Update – Mr. Tyburski shared that the Town Manager has resigned, he stated that she has been a great supporter of C.P.R. and they have accomplished a lot under her administration. He shared that if the budget goes through, they will finally be at their restored number for maintenance positions. Their part-time programmer position will be moved to full-time funded through the Revenue Fund. He stated they have been fortunate so far and have not had any cuts to their proposed budget. The budget moves to public hearing on Tuesday night. Mr. Tyburski stated he will send out an email with the exact time and location and encouraged the Commission members to come out and show their support.

2023 Summer Program Update – Mr. Tyburski shared that they are in the process of putting together a summer concert series at the Flower Bridge, an event series on the Tariffville Green, and some pool events. Summer camp programs are filling up quickly. He started camp counselor interviews yesterday and has another round tomorrow and a couple more over the next couple weeks. There are 30-35 applications with six positions to fill. They are a little short on maintenance applications for the golf course as well as seasonal parks. There are about 20 applications for lifeguards right now. They will be doing a lifeguard training course at the beginning of the summer as opposed to the middle as they have done previously.

Simsbury Farms Playground Update – Mr. Tyburski shared that the playground has been ordered. There were some slight alterations to make it more accessible. It is coming in at budget with C.P.R. doing some of the tear out work. The only downside is that it won't arrive until late September-early October. They will do a public announcement about the playground construction via social media. They plan to begin tear down in May/June. They hope to do a ribbon cutting upon completion. Mr. Tyburski stated he is also starting to meet with Rotary as they are about 4 years out on a replacement there. They have already been planted the seed in their six-year plan, the idea is that they will hopefully partner with Rotary.

Simsbury Farms Tennis/Pickleball Court Update – Mr. Tyburski shared that the courts were open last week. The asphalt court base is 6-7 years old, they tried to patch a couple cracks last year. This year there is also some significant cracking happening in all directions. They are trying to get a vendor up there to look at it. He stated he is going to move ahead with painting pickleball lines on courts three and four. After speaking with the Town Manager and Town Attorney, C.P.R. doesn't need to vote on it as it is a maintenance issue. There are pickleball and tennis lessons scheduled there this summer. The youth lines will come off courts three and four and they will be repainted with tennis lines and pickleball lines. He stated when the Tariffville Courts open they will not be removing the lines because there are no lights in Tariffville. They will be putting a bulletin board on the side of the court that will have instructions on making a reservation for the court on the website and have a QR code link to the schedule.

Adjourn

Ms. Keppel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Coppinger seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next Regular Meeting of the C. P. & R. Commission will be April 27, 2023 at 6 p.m. at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Taylor,
Commission Clerk