

TOWN OF SIMSBURY – CULTURE, PARKS, AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Subject to Vote of Approval – Regular Meeting Minutes – **Thursday, February 23, 2023** – 2 pages

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Dave Bush, Chairman at Simsbury Town Hall. Other commission members who were present included Lori Coppinger, Danielle Celli (via Zoom), 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.

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- January 26, 2023 Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission

Mr. Bush declared the January 26, 2023 minutes approved and requested that they be put on record.

Presentation

Simsbury Little League Field Improvement – Mr. Moon shared that they lost the ability to host All-Star games due to field size on Field 2. They did homework to evaluate options. Field 5 at Memorial is the appropriate size but lacks some of the peripherals, the league would like to make a 150k investment into the field which would include a press box behind home plate, adding two sets of bleachers on each side, building batting cage, rehabbing dugouts, upgrading scoreboard and installing PA system, and some landscaping. Funding wise, there is no ability to put in a bathroom, to host games they would bring in additional porta potties and perhaps bring in food trucks. Mr. Bush asked what their timetable is for the upgrades. Mr. Moon stated they are hoping to start right away, have gone through numerous estimates and are ready to hire general contractor. He stated that some of the ground work can start in the next couple of weeks, the goal is to have it done mid to late spring. The All-star schedule is not formalized until the end of May. The process for permits is underway as part of contractors' bids. Mr. Bush suggested they get some publicity with what they are doing and it would be nice to recognize the time and effort.

New Business

FY24 Budget Process Update – Mr. Tyburski shared that the Town Manger's budget presentation to the Board of Selectmen is this Monday night. The next step is the budget workshop on March 11th, assuming the they get through that process without any cuts, it moves to the following Monday and/or Wednesday for the BOS to review. Highlights of C.P.R.'s budget items include; a full-time maintainer position, the part-time programmer position to go full-time, continuing playground renovations, parks sign initiative continued, more irrigation systems, cart path paving, rebuilding of 13th tee (fund balance), mower, cutting reels, hoping to rebuild the sun deck at Simsbury Farms pool, rubber matting at ice rink. Mr. Tyburski stated that the golf irrigation system is out to bid right now. He stated that some of these budget items are recurring and some are starting new initiatives. The need for a security gate at the maintenance facility was discussed.

Mr. Peterson recommended that Commission members show up at the workshop and the Board of Finance meeting (3/21) to advocate. Mr. Bush stated he would like to see Commission members at one or both of these meetings.

March 2023 Meeting Rescheduling -David Bush – Mr. Tyburski stated he is unavailable for the March 23rd meeting, the Commission agreed for March 30th to be the new meeting date.

Old Business

2023 Summer Program Update – Mr. Tyburski stated that they kicked off registration last Thursday by 9 a.m., 6 out of 8 sessions of Camp Stuff-Ta-Doo were sold out. There is one session left as of now. Swim lessons are also going very well. The aquatic exercise programs have 30/30 spots filled for one, the other session is 20/30. There is a new mini junior tennis program for little kids, which is almost filled. Sport camps and enrichment camps are off to a good start, nothing more than half full at this point. Next year they would like to get fee approval done in December so it doesn't require a special meeting in January as they would love to start registration the last week of January. Mr. Tyburski stated that this year they would like to do an event or two on the Tariffville green, a few concerts at the Flower Bridge and that they are considering doing something at the end of the summer again similar to last year at Simsbury Farms.

Ms. Lipar stated that the last sustainability meeting she was asked to mention when planning these events, to consider a way to incorporate reducing food waste or environmental impact, recycle bins, etc. The cost of recycling bins was discussed. Mr. Tyburski stated that last year the Town hosted a clean-up day, which it will be doing again on Saturday, April 22nd which is Earth Day.

Simsbury Farms Playground Update – Mr. Tyburski stated that they have three options from 3 different vendors. The first one is from the same vendor as the West Mountain playground, this one is 25k over budget, and would require CPR to do the demo. Option two is by the company who did Rotary Park, it is under budget and they will either tear everything out or excavate the site. However, it cannot be installed until September. The third option is by the Simsbury Farms playground vendor from 26 years ago, it is over budget as well. The materials would be delivered eight weeks from order so late June or July. They would have to excavate and tear everything down. If option two is selected the plan is to begin tearing out in July when they have seasonal staff and let the vendor excavate. The Commission discussed their preference and option two was selected.

Mr. Tyburski stated that Friends of Simsbury Farms met last night and an ADA accessible water fountain and water bottle filler was proposed for the playground.

Adjourn

Ms. Lipar made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Coppinger 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 March 30, 2023 at 6 p.m. at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Taylor,
Commission Clerk