

TOWN OF SIMSBURY – CULTURE, PARKS, AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
Subject to Vote of Approval – Regular Meeting Minutes – **Thursday, June 22, 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 Danielle Celli (via Zoom), Erik Petersen, Liz Keppel, Tim Walczak, Michelle Lipar, and Kelly Kearney. The C. P. & R. Director, Tom Tyburski was 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 April 27, 2023 minutes approved and requested that they be put on record.

**New Business**

*Golf Course Mid-Season Update-* Mr. Johnson shared that the pretty mild winter, which helped the course as there was no ice damage. The big project going on this spring was the rebuilding/restructuring of the irrigation pond dam. It is still not officially finished but the pond is usable now. Some of the other projects at the course include: putting up a fence at 15<sup>th</sup> tee (funds from Friends), they have been planting wildflower seeds the past three years, they are really starting to bloom (with Pollinators) have been adding bunker sand, mulched all trees, and they are working on figuring out a spot for a #7 forward tee (constructed in the fall).

*Golf Course Irrigation System and Dam Project Update* – Mr. Johnson shared that they finally found a contractor for the irrigation system and they signed the contract last week. The project will start in September. Mr. Tyburski shared that they are not closing the golf course for that project, however, there might be a temporary tee or temporary green but will keep all outings. He stated that hopefully it comes in under budget and they have money for cart path paving.

Mr. Bush asked how often are they rolling the greens. Mr. Johnson stated that it is weather dependent, he hasn't in the last 6 weeks but will roll tomorrow for an outing.

Mr. Kearney asked if money was no object what are the top two things Mr. Johnson would do to improve the course. Mr. Johnson stated work on drainage and cart paths.

*Golf Course Restaurant Update-* Mr. Sparks shared that they want to allow golfers to move quicker throughout restaurant, as such, they now have grab and go combos. They also have the hot dog machine running (not running all the time because not warranted, added as necessary on busy days). On the patio they will have a grill or hot dog cart (also has walking tacos). Sales have increased as well as transaction count. They changed the menu entirely. After leaving the restaurant guests are emailed an e-receipt and they can leave feedback off of that.

Mr. Kearney asked if there is a way to capture feedback from those who get a printed receipt. Mr. Sparks stated that the receipt has the website at the bottom for feedback. Mr. Tyburski suggested a QR code on the receipt in place of the website. Mr. Sparks stated they would have to place it at the top of receipt, they didn't like the aesthetics, however they can work on a different format

Mr. Bush commented that the restaurant did a great job on staffing this year. Mr. Sparks shared that they see about three waves of staff, and that they have received over 200 applicants for server/beverage cart position. They are also trying to develop a formal culinary program with Johnson and Wales.

Ms. Keppel asked if they have had to deal with any shortages in inventory. Mr. Sparks stated that it peeks its head on occasion but prices are starting to even out and trucks are starting to run more stable. Ms. Keppel asked what they would want for the restaurant if money was no object. Mr. Sparks stated an outdoor pavilion with separate kitchen and a bar in the restaurant.

Mr. Kearney shared that they want to see the restaurant succeed, he encouraged them to provide everyone the opportunity for feedback and set customers as the number one priority. He stated he would be thrilled if the group put a vision together stating this is where we are aiming/what we want.

Mr. Bush suggested to encourage servers to inform the consumers to provide feedback.

Mr. Tyburski shared that the Friends have talked about options for the restaurant. The Town has money in capital plan right now for pavilion (about half), everything would likely be funded from the fund balance as they just recently got permission to use it. There are some deferred infrastructure projects that need to be taken care of first.

Mr. Tyburski shared an email from Mr. Verrengia. He stated that the men's and ladies' clubs have been doing a great job increasing their membership and filling all reserved tee times. They just had their first two outings last week with both exceeding 100 players. As of now, they have commitments for more outings than last year. For 2023, the Town is up 42k with season pass revenues increasing by \$20,000. For the fiscal year 2022-2023, the Town is up \$135k.

*Summer Events Update* – Mr. Tyburski shared that there were two events last week, Last Day of School Funfest and Touch-A-Truck at Simsbury Farms. At the Funfest, they had food, games, DJ, and a face painter, with close to 600 people. For the Touch-A-Truck event they had donuts, coffee and a crowd about 1,000. They will be hosting three concerts at the Flower Bridge and a few in August on the Tariffville Green. They will also be holding an end of summer event at Simsbury Farms which will have fireworks, bounce houses, band, and food options. The next event will be July 5<sup>th</sup> which is a Community Bank concert.

## **Old Business**

*Simsbury Farms Playground Update* – Mr. Tyburski shared that they started demo this past Monday. The gate is closed, a metal sign which shows the new playground is up with QR code to view the video. They are hoping for a late September/early October install. They will post progress photos.

Mr. Kearney asked if it would be possible to have steps added to basketball courts while construction is ongoing. Mr. Tyburski stated he can ask the town engineers; however, they would then be responsible for maintaining for safety. Mr. Tyburski noted that there is a currently an accessible path to the courts from the main parking area.

Mr. Bush shared to let them know if anyone has an agenda item they would like to discuss. He stated that Mr. Tyburski will continue to bring in local sports groups.

Mr. Kearney thanked Mr. Bush for 15 years of service.

## **Adjourn**

Ms. Lipar made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Keppel seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

## **Next Meeting**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Taylor,  
Commission Clerk