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Cc:

CULTURE, PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
July 22, 2010
REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Culture, Parks & Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:37 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were Commission members Linda Johnson, Barbara Koff, Kelly Kearney, Mary Liljedahl, David Bush and Director of Culture, Parks & Recreation Gerry Toner.

II. Minutes – February, May meetings

Mr. Bush made a motion to approve the May 27, 2010 minutes as written. Mr. Kearney seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Mr. Bush made a motion to approve the February 25, 2010 minutes as written. Ms. Liljedahl seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

III. Revenue/Program Report

Mr. Toner distributed the program information to the Commission members. He stated that overall, the summer has gone well. The numbers are slightly up from last year. He stated that the numbers are up in the full day camps, although the numbers are down in the one week, half day sports camps. He feels this is an economic factor and that working parents are looking more for full day programs. Mr. Toner stated that after camp care is way up. He stated that overall, the camps have run well and the staff is doing a great job.

The aquatics report showed increased revenues from last year. This may be because of the weather. Mr. Toner stated that there have been some discipline issues with a small group of junior high school aged youngsters. The addition of walking lifeguards on the pool deck has helped address this issue and the general safety of the users of the facility. Overall, the season has gone very well to date.

Mr. Bush questioned if parents of the misbehaving children have been contacted. Mr. Toner stated that parents have not been contacted as of yet, although if the conduct continues, parents will be notified. Ms. Koff suggested sending a letter to the parents stating the behavior of their children and the rules of conduct that need to be followed. Mr. Kearney stated that the misconduct of the few is hindering the enjoyment of many.

Regarding the golf report, Mr. Toner stated that the course has had good play during the week, although the weekends are slower than what they have been in the past. July has not been a great month, although they did have some specials that have worked well. He stated that in September, they do have several outings scheduled which will help improve revenues. Mr. Toner stated that the league play has been solid. The junior program has been successful and the senior league has over 60 players on Wednesdays playing 18 holes.

Regarding weekend play, Mr. Toner stated that he feels the weather has played a big role. He stated that other golf courses in the area are finding the same issues on the weekends. Simsbury Farms golf fees are competitive; he does not believe this is an issue.

IV. Simsbury Farms Main Building Renovations – Design Development Plans

Mr. Toner stated that the Public Building Committee will be looking at the renovations. The money that has been appropriated is an extension from last year. Now that the budget has been identified, this money is for the final design. The Public Building Committee will oversee the final design phase. Mr. Toner stated that it would be beneficial to have this Committee and the Simsbury Farms Complex to be represented at those Public Building meetings.

Ms. Johnson stated that she would volunteer to go to the Public Building Committee meetings. Mr. Bush stated that Mr. Ryan may be a good candidate; he already attends these meetings on a regular basis.

V. Proposed Dog Park – Linda Johnson

Chairman Johnson stated that they did have fundraiser, which raised over \$6,000. They had a lot of auction items; people got great deals. She stated that the food was great also. The Dog Park Committee has decided that it was a great activity, although they still need to come up with other ideas.

Chairman Johnson stated that the final site plan is done for the park and has been paid for. The Committee continues looking at benches and fencing plaques. They will also be getting advertising up; they will have simple signage stating "Future Home of Paw Meadow". They also have jars out for donations. Ms. Johnson stated that their greatest challenge is the cost for the fencing because of the shape of the park. They do have two estimates, which are approximately \$20,000 for a 5 foot anchored fence. Two gates will be needed, which are also very costly.

Chairman Johnson stated that water has been rerouted on the property; there was a brook that interferes with the dog park. The Town will move the brook further west where there is already existing water. She stated that the dog park will be flat, but with a subtle curve so there is no pooling of water. She stated that she is hopeful that the dog park will be finished in approximately one year.

Chairman Johnson started that the Dog Park Committee is looking for new ideas and fundraisers. Their next venture will be a dog wash. She stated that they will also be selling individual fence sections; individuals or businesses can have a plaque placed on a certain section of fence. She stated that someone has already purchased a water fountain for the park and they have already sold some fencing.

The Dog Park Committee will hold their next meeting in August.

VI. Other Business

Regarding Memorial Pool, Mr. Toner stated that he is exploring the issue of having a consultant come in to look at repairs to the concrete. This might allow the Town to get another 10 years or so out of this pool. Mr. Toner stated that the full day camp has benefited from the pool funding being put back into the budget.

Mr. Bush questioned if funding for Memorial Pool is in danger next year. Mr. Toner stated that it is a good possibility, although the protection the pool has is the revenue that the facility has generated this year.

VII. Adjourn

Mr. Bush made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Mr. Kearney seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.