TOWN OF SIMSBURY **–** CULTURE, PARKS, AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Subject to Vote of Approval – Regular Meeting Minutes – **Thursday, May 23, 2019** – 3 pages

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by David Bush, Chairman, in the Main Meeting Room of Town Hall. Other commission members who were present included Gerry Wetjen, Kelly Kearney, and Rachel Wellman. The C. P. & R. Director, Thomas Tyburski, and Simsbury Farms Golf Professional, John Verrengia were also in attendance.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Due to lack of quorum, no action was taken on the March 21, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes.

**Public Session**None.

**Presentations**

*Simsbury Youth Football – Unfortunately, Simsbury Youth Football Representatives had a schedule conflict with youth sports practices and could not present at this meeting. They will be rescheduled to a later date.*

**New Business**

*Simsbury Farms Golf Course Report –*. Simsbury Farms Golf Course PGA Professional John Verrengia reported that season pass sales have exceeded those of last year during the same time period. There was moderate success with the Farmington Valley Golf Season Pass Program and we acquired four new passholders through this program. The weather this season has again been challenging. There were 20 days of rain in April and a significant amount of rain in May to date. Many of the traditionally busier days, Fridays and Sundays, have been greatly affected by the wet weather. It is Mr. Verrengia’s opinion that the Golf Maintenance staff has done a tremendous job of keeping the course open in adverse conditions this spring. The new Fifth Hole Green, that was reconstructed last fall, is now open and has received great reviews. Mr. Verrengia reported that league play has been good so far this season and that the new Women’s Business League has begun with low numbers and anticipates it taking a year or two to grow into having sustainable numbers. The new Women’s teaching clinics are also well, he told the Commission members. During his remarks, Mr. Verrengia noted he has not seen the Golf Course Restaurant has not advertise specials to attract league or teaching clinic participants and is hopeful that this would change soon. Chairman Bush asked Mr. Tyburski to set up meeting with the restaurant vendor, the golf pro and himself. Mr. Verrengia also let the board know that he thought the course should renew efforts to market/advertise the course and all it has to offer. The Commission agreed and wants to make this a focus of future meetings.

*Friends of Simsbury Farms Golf Tournament Update.* Commission and Friends of Simsbury Farms Board Member Kelly Kearney let everyone know that the Friends have been meeting regularly to work out details for the upcoming June 21st tournament. He reports that registration is fair at this time and they are hoping for additional signups in the coming weeks. They are hoping for more person to person communication about the tournament and are hopeful the more of the Simsbury Farms Women’s Club’s members will take part. Chairman Bush thanked Mr. Kearney and the other members of the Friends of Simsbury Farms for their efforts in trying to make this fundraising tournament a success.

*Announcement regarding new Parks Maintainer Hire.* Mr. Tyburski informed the commission members, that Mark Raymond, a long time seasonal employee of the Culture, Parks and Recreation Department had been hired for a full time parks maintainer position. This hire fills the vacancy from the early March retirement of Stephen Gingras.

*Simsbury Farms Tee Sign Fund Discussion.* Chairman Bush let the commission members know that he had had further discussions with members of the Simsbury Farms Men’s Club regarding the updating of the advertising policy agreement (between the Club and the Town) used to define how appropriations will be made from the tee sign fund. Mr. Bush read aloud the following proposed change in language to the existing agreement, “The funds will be disbursed for projects or equipment recommended by the Golf Course Superintendent, the Director of Culture, Parks and/or the Simsbury Farms Men’s Club, Board of Directors. Any project or equipment expenditure request is to be consistent with the parameters for fund use as defined by the Town of Simsbury and not in conflict with any Master Plan adopted by the Culture, Parks, and Recreation Commission. The specific allocation of funds is to be determined by the Simsbury Farms Men’s Club, Board of Directors. The fund will be made available for audit by the Town if requested.” The Commission members present voiced their approval for the changes to the agreement.

*Simsbury Farms Ice Rink Solar Project.* Mr. Tyburski updated the commission on the status of the ice rink solar panel project. The project began about three weeks ago, much of the racking is complete, and panels are on track to installed the week of May 28. After the panels are installed there will be some additional electrical work that needs to be completed before the solar array is active. It is expected that most work will be completed by July 1. Interior bracing of the roof will take place in late summer/early fall.

*Sustainable CT Initiative Update.* Mr. Tyburski made the commissioners know that the citizen volunteers and town staff representatives have each met once. The Public Works Department has created an online repository where Town Staff will upload information on their departmental conservation/sustainable initiatives that the citizen volunteers will use to complete the Sustainable CT program forms.

*Flower Bridge Park Naming Rights Committee.* Mr. Tyburski reported to the Commission that a volunteer from the Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission may be needed to participate on a naming rights committee for the Flower Bridge park project. Commission member Rachel Wellman volunteered her time for this committee’s work. Chairman Bush and the other members thanked Mrs. Wellman for volunteering.

*Parks and Open Space Master Plan.* Mr. Tyburski let the Commission know that the Town’s consultants for this project have held two “pop up” interactions with the public at the Library’s Mini Maker Faire and the Tootin’ Hills Duck Race. Both events were well attended and some good conversations were had with people regarding their feelings about Simsbury’s parks. There will be two more similar events, one at the Burgers on The Bridge event and also at the July 5 HSO concert. The project team will be holding a kick off meeting with Weston and Sampson’s staff on June 11.

*Town Budget Update.* Mr. Tyburski notified the Commission that the Town’s budget recently passed and all of the Department’s projects have moved forward and the planning process for these projects will soon begin. The Culture, Parks and Recreation Department will lose a full time programming position in this budget. Chairman Bush, requested BOS Liaison, Chris Peterson to look into getting the proposed revenue fund budget work group reappointed soon by the Board of Selectmen so that their work could be completed prior to next budget season.

*Simsbury Meadows-* Commission members expressed concern over the field conditions after a recent spring event. They discussed whether the Town has rights to cancel events begin held by SPAC if weather conditions would not be conducive to such events. Mr. Tyburski explained the current lease agreement limits the Dept.’s rights but the Town does charge SPAC for any repairs that must be made after an event to return the field to its “normal” conditions. Mr. Tyburski will relay the commission’s concerns to the Town Manager as the Town enters negotiations on lease renewal with SPAC later this year.

**Adjourn**

Mr. Kearney made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wetjen seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

**Next Meeting**

The next Regular Meeting of the C. P. & R. Commission is scheduled for Thursday, June 27, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas Tyburski, Culture, Parks and Recreation Director