

TOWN OF SIMSBURY – CULTURE, PARKS, AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Subject to Vote of Approval – Regular Meeting Minutes – **Thursday, August 29, 2019** – 2 pages

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Kelly Kearney, Vice Chairman, in the Main Meeting Room of Town Hall. Other commission members who were present included Gerry Wetjen, Dennis Fallon, Gina Morgan, and Lori Coppinger. The C. P. & R. Director, Thomas Tyburski, Board of Selectman Liaison, Chris Peterson, and the SF PGA Golf Professional, John Verrengia, were also in attendance.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

No changes were made to the July 18, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes. Mr. Kearney declared the minutes approved and requested that they be put on record.

Public Session

None.

Presentations

Mr. Verrengia distributed a survey regarding golfers' opinion on how their round went. Course conditions ranked average in March, April and May when rain beat up the course. For price value, most people think the rates are fair. Two categories showed concern, speed of the greens and the restaurant. Mr. Verrengia stated that the restaurant is part of the whole golfing experience, the vision is to have someone come in there that cares about the day to day operations not just the outings. Some guests have expressed displeasure with the restaurant's service and have said that they won't patronize it. While an application for a full liquor permit has been submitted by the restaurant vendor, it still hasn't been approved yet. Mr. Peterson stated that it sounds like the vendor needs to be changed.

New Business

Simsbury Farms Golf Course Report. A 2-page report detailing Simsbury Farms Golf Course annual income was distributed. Mr. Verrengia shared that everything is up from last year except for Groupon sales, however, they did get a late start as most are sold in March and April. The course is at 116K this year compared to 88K last year.

2020 Golf Pass Promotions Discussion. Simsbury Farms will be running a season pass promotion. For new season pass memberships, starting September 15, buy a 2020 season pass and get the rest of this year for free. For 2019 season pass holders, starting September 15, buy a 2020 season pass and get it at the 2019 rate. There will also be a new family membership offered to give families a discount for purchasing multiple passes.

Fall Movie In the Park Event. Partnering with the PAC, a free movie in the park event will be held on September 14th. Aladdin will be shown. It is self-contained, a contractor has been hired that runs the movie and the sound. The event will also have a bounce house and they are still working on the food options. Mr. Kearney questioned how the event was being communicated to the public. Mr. Tyburski stated as of right now the PAC is emailing it to their email base and it is being advertised on Facebook and email by the Recreation Department.

Simsbury Farms Ice Rink Fees 2019-20 Requesting Approval. Mr. Tyburski shared that the ice rink had a great winter last year, losing only a couple days here and there due to bad weather, however, last year was the highest revenue year they have had. There are two small increases proposed for next year, skating lessons went up \$5 due to the minimum wage increase and the rental rate for Simsbury High School will go up \$10, which they were expecting. Mr. Wetjen made a motion to approve staff recommendations for the skating rates for 2019-2020. Mr. Fallon seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Labyrinth Proposal

Mr. Wellman was recently approached by Deborah Bibbins about putting a labyrinth at Curtiss Park, however, the proposed location there is in a flood zone. Mr. Tyburski stated they have come back with a second possible location, at the bottom of the hill at the Farms. Mr. Wetjen inquired as to what additional maintenance would be required. Mr. Tyburski stated that they are thinking a 50 foot circle with a path going to the labyrinth, so probably just weed control. Mr. Peterson questioned who would pay for putting in the labyrinth. Mr. Tyburski said that it wouldn't cost the town anything. Further location possibilities were discussed with Mr. Peterson recommending Meadow Pond Park.

Old Business

Update on Parks and Open Space Master Plan Process. The final online survey meeting was held yesterday, and was sent out to the project group today. Signs will be made to remind the public and hopefully the Board of Education will send it out as well. The timeline is that the survey would be completed in early October, they are going to analyze the results, come back to the public with a presentation on what the survey shows. A draft report will then be done by late October to mid-November, and a final report in December or January to the town before the budget gets underway. Ms. Morgan questioned if there was a target response rate for the survey. Mr. Tyburski stated he will have to ask the consultant.

Update on Simsbury Farms Ice Rink Solar Project. The panel is generating electricity. Mr. Tyburski stated that they don't get to keep the electricity they generate rather it gets sold to a vendor, however, they are getting a 50% discount from what they were paying before. The last part is that they are coming back the week of September 9th to reinforce the panels before the winter weather sets in. The roof has not been painted yet as it will be a bid project and likely completed in the spring.

Tee Fund Signage Agreement Update. The Town Manager did an initial review of what the Commission approved, she had some suggested changes. Mr. Tyburski clarified some of the questions about it and that will be wrapped up hopefully soon.

Mr. Tyburski asked the Commission members if he could email them that to have some potential volunteers, if needed, for the movie in the park event. The Commission members said yes.

Adjourn

Mr. Wetjen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Fallon seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next Regular Meeting of the C. P. & R. Commission will be October 24, 2019 at 7 p.m. at Simsbury Town Hall. There will be no September meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Taylor, Commission Clerk