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

Subject to Vote of Approval – Regular Meeting Minutes – **Thursday, March 21, 2019** – 2 pages

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by David Bush, Chairman, in the Main Meeting Room of Town Hall. Other commission members who were present included Gerry Wetjen, Dennis Fallon, Sarah Cramer, Steve Spalla and Lori Coppinger. Mr. Bush welcomed the newest commission member, Rachel Wellman. The C. P. & R. Director, Thomas Tyburski, was also in attendance.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

No changes were made to the February 21, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes. Mr. Bush declared the minutes approved and requested that they be put on record.

**Public Session**None.

**Presentations**

*Mr. Jarrod Moss – Memorial Park Skate Park Renovation.* An 8-page illustrated report was distributed.

Mr. Moss’ first presentation—about turning Memorial Park Skate Park into an alternative sports outlet for younger and special needs children—was made at the Commission’s April 27, 2017 meeting. The project was paused but is now back on track. Mr. Moss hopes to raise $80K from private sources. Mr. Wetjen noted that this is the type of project that the local Rotary Club would support, possibly with matching district funds. The Commission unanimously re-endorsed this worthwhile concept without a formal vote.

*Greg Tartaglia – Simsbury Youth Football.* Mr. Tartaglia was not present.

**Old Business**

*Parks & Open Space Master Plan Process - Update.* Add-ons to the original contract are being reviewed. In the next nine months, public hearings will be held to help create this plan.

*Facility/Ice Rink Report.* A one-page spreadsheet titled, “Simsbury Farms Ice Rink Revenue: 2018 – 2019,” was shared. Figures were collected through March 9, 2019, when the rink closed for the season. Mr. Tyburski projected the totals from outstanding bills to get an overall season total. This year’s projected total revenue of more than $220K exceeds totals from the last twelve years. Mr. Bush commended the Parks and Recreation staff.

*FY2020 Budget Update.* Mr. Tyburski reported that in the last four to six weeks the entire FY2020 town budget has tightened considerably. Since the C. P. & R. Department is again projecting a deficit, and its overall revenues have been down for about eight years, the Board of Selectmen’s budget now eliminates a full time supervisor position and proposes using part time programming staff to offset a portion of the budget deficit. In addition, the Board of Finance chose to keep the C. P. & R. Budget in the Special Revenue Fund for another year. A Special Revenue Fund Subcommittee will be re-established by the Board of Selectmen with two members each from the C. P. & R. Commission and the Boards of Selectmen and Finance.

*Parks Maintainer Crew Leader Position - Update.* The parks maintainer’s union chose not to accept the revised job description for a “Parks Crew Leader.” Instead the vacant position will be filled by moving a second shift maintainer to first shift, and then hiring a new second shift maintainer.

*Simsbury Bike Path Signage – Review Current Draft.* An 8-page illustrated report was presented to show the final design and content for the eight individual signs proposed. Mr. Fallon made a motion to approve the final version. Ms. Coppinger seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed. The Public Works Department will be installing the signs in early summer.

**New Business**

*Golf Course Restaurant – Vendor Seeking Approval for Full Liquor Permit.* Mr. Ryan Kreiger—the current golf course concessionaire, who also runs two other eateries in town—discussed how having a full liquor license could benefit the golf course restaurant. Not only would it sweeten the contract for future concessionaires, but it would attract more tournaments and private events. Given the size and layout constraints of the current kitchen and restaurant, full bar service could not be offered. Mr. Kreiger proposed having a more limited drink menu with some mixed drink specials on tap. He also suggested having an outdoor mobile bar with bartender to offer a curated selection of poured drinks during tournaments. Mr. Fallon made a motion to allow Mr. Kreiger to apply for a full liquor license on behalf of the SF Golf Course Restaurant. Mr. Wetjen seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

*Golf Course Update.* The driving range was opened today. Weather-permitting, the golf course will open in the next four to five days. Specials will be advertised on the SFGC website beginning next week. A new point-of-sale system has been installed at the ProShop. Offering SFGC resident-rate season passes to select nearby towns through their respective Recreation Departments is proving to be very popular. Season pass rates for golf carts were considered upon a request by a town resident. However, Mr. Verrengia denied the request since it may lead to misuse of carts, turf damage and increased maintenance. Packets of professionally designed brochures and flyers advertising the Friends of Simsbury Farms Annual Golf Tournament were placed at each commission member’s seat. They were created by Mr. Kearney. Mr. Bush asked commission members to promote the event by distributing these materials to family, friends, neighbors and acquaintances.

*Simsbury Farms Tee Sign Fund Discussion.* A one-page report titled, “Golf Course Tee Sign Advertising Policy - Draft” was shared. Mr. Bush recently met with the SF Men’s Club Board of Directors to discuss their wish to have a say in how the funds they have raised will be spent. The Men’s Club has generously donated their proceeds to the golf course for multiple emergency needs over the years. Mr. Bush felt that it was a reasonable request, if the projects were: 1. Chosen from a needs-based wish list that Mr. Wallace is creating, 2. Within the parameters of the course, and 3. Consistent with a to-be-developed Golf Course Master Plan.

*Field Use Policy Discussion.* A 2-page report titled, “Field Use Policy – Town of Simsbury” was distributed. Mr. Tyburski noted that our fields are being used regularly by outside organizations. As such, he wants to create a subcommittee that would meet one to two times to develop a formal, written policy and rate plan. Mr. Wetjen, Ms. Coppinger and Ms. Cramer volunteered to help.

*Sustainability Team.* Added to the agenda. Mr. Tyburski and the Town Manager are creating a Sustainability Team which meet at least once a year. It will be composed of one member each from the C. P. & R. Commission, the Recycling Committee, and the Economic Development Commission. Mr. Tom Roy, Director of Public Works, will serve as the staff liaison. Ms. Cramer volunteered to represent the C. P. & R. Commission. A meeting schedule will be forthcoming.

This was the final meeting for member, Mr. Spalla, and clerk, Ms. McElligott. On behalf of the commission, Mr. Bush extended his best wishes and appreciation to both for their past service.

**Adjourn**

Mr. Fallon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wetjen seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

**Next Meeting**

The next Regular Meeting of the C. P. & R. Commission is scheduled for Thursday, April 25, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Lorrie McElligott, Commission Clerk