

TOWN OF SIMSBURY – CULTURE, PARKS, AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Subject to Vote of Approval – Regular Meeting Minutes – **Thursday, June 23, 2022** – 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 Kelly Kearney, Lori Coppinger, Christine Boswell, Danielle Celli, Liz Keppel, and Tim Walczak (via Call). The C. P. & R. Director, Tom Tyburski and Board of Selectman Liaison, Chris Petersen (via Call) were also in attendance.

Public Session:

None.

Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission Member Comments

No comments.

Presentation: Simsbury Youth Hockey- No presentation, rescheduled to later date.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Mr. Walczak requested the spelling of his name be amended, there were no other changes made to the April 28, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes. Mr. Bush declared the minutes approved and requested that they be put on record.

New Business

Summer 2022 Program Update – Mr. Tyburski commented that he is thrilled with work to such a great team. He stated summer programming kicked off with an event at the rink. As part of Simsbury Farms 50th anniversary celebration, 50 events in 50 days, there was a last day of school event. They sold over 300 wrist bands to kids and another 200 or so parents attended. The first week of camp just began with Camp Stuff-Ta-Doo having 90 kids and 16 camp staff working with them. Swim lessons are full, 60 kids are in the tennis and golf programs this week, 52 kids in field hockey camp, and 20 kids in baseball camp. Most July/August programs are still filling, if not already full.

Friends of Simsbury Farms Family Day- Mr. Tyburski provided an outline of what the schedule looks like for Family Day. Mr. Kearney commented that Mr. Tyburski has graciously agreed on his own time to add the Friends of Simsbury Farm Family Day to the C.P.R. website and thanked him. Mr. Tyburski shared that sign-up for the basketball and tennis clinics are up already, they have booked a band and food truck. There will be some pool contests and games for families. Mr. Bush also thanked Mr. Wetjen for all his hard work on this, stating that he has taken this under his wing and run with it, there would not be a Family Day without him. He stated that Mr. Wetjen would ask commission members to donate an hour of their time to sit at the Friends' information tent. Mr. Kearney stated that Friends of the Farm has their charge to spend money on the complex not just on golf, the complex is benefiting from the Friends so if we can give back in any way, it will also benefit C.P.R. Mr. Tyburski stated that the Friends' goal is to spend 50k on projects next year..

Formation of Simsbury Farms Playground Renovation Subcommittee- Mr. Tyburski shared that they did get budget approval to add another 75k to the budget for the Simsbury Farms playground. He stated that 200k for renovations was approved this fiscal year. They will now receive 75k from the ARPA funds to put towards that project. He stated that they met with 3-4 vendors last year, they are hoping to keep the pavilion but do some renovations on it, they are also hoping to utilize existing concrete pathways and any new equipment will somewhat match up to those locations. Mr. Tyburski stated that one issue is that it is there are some wet areas

inside the play area so this fall they are going to put some drainage in and push everything toward the back area to improve drainage. With the additional project funds, they will be restarting this project and it would be helpful to have a few members from this Commission and Friends of Simsbury Farms (as they are interested in possibly doing some add-ons) form a subcommittee. Ms. Celli, Mr. Walczak, and Ms. Keppel offered to assist in this endeavor.

Old Business

Simsbury Farms 50th Anniversary Update – Mr. Tyburski shared that Mr. Thibeault has been working hard on planning 50 events and that weather will play big part. The Touch-A-Truck event last week went really well, about 200-250 kids came through. Some of the events include, fun runs, pool events, music on Fridays, Finding Nemo on the pool deck, a movie night for adults only on the 1st fairway at the golf course. The next event is July 6th which is a community band concert and ice cream social, volunteers are appreciated from 5:40-7:15.

Friends of Simsbury Farms Projects Update- Mr. Tyburski reported that the project for covering tree roots is near complete. The expression swing was delivered last week hopefully will be installed early next week. Ms. Boswell's foundation assisted with getting lights on the patio. Tee leveling will occur later this summer due to staffing. The large fitness trail sign will go up next week, the Emmett family will be funding new stone dust. They will also be replacing all the individual exercise signs as well as the balance beams out there. They will be installing a new welcome sign (leaving from bottom of pool parking lot will be on angle across the hill). Friends also purchased 5 picnic tables which are behind the pool deck on the golf course side.

Golf Course Restaurant Update- The restaurant emailed an update to Mr. Tyburski stating that the patio lights are working very well and the feedback is positive. Friday specials and music have been consistent and feedback positive. They have been working more diligently to inform golfers and guests when we have large events and have to alter restaurant food service. In these instances, we increase our grab n' go stock and selections. The beverage cart program continues to progress. Eva has been brought up to Lead Beverage Cart Person and Trainer. After a set of small challenges, credit cards are back up and running on the course.

New protocols dictate that on larger outings/tournaments the beverage cart pulls up to the event bar to "back up" the bar with additional stock and set of hands to get the first rush of guests through quickly providing better service. Also, due to increased range and stability they have been able to add another point of sale system/server station to better service guests. Key front of house staff have been identified and promoted to lead positions. To further train and empower them we've implemented specific training sessions to deep-dive important aspects of customer service and responsible delivery of alcohol. They continue to hire and groom kitchen personnel to find the right fit however, they continue to struggle with labor and supply chain issues.

Mr. Tyburski shared that there has been some discussion regarding installing an outdoor kitchen. Mr. Wetjen was going to meet with restaurant manager and then call the health district to see what requirements would be and then start to get some estimates to see what the restaurant vendor/Friends would be willing to support. However, he has spoken to the Town Manager and there won't be end of year funds available for this year. The Town would like to see these things in the Town capital spending plan for at least a year or two, if it is not an immediate need. Mr. Tyburski stated that if it is going in the Capital Plan, they would need a vetted number and it could be included in next year's budget that way everyone will have a chance to get comfortable and learn more about it over the next few years. Discussion followed regarding feedback about consistency around menu item availability, beverage cart service and credit card payment options. Mr. Peterson stated that these concerns aren't really in Mr. Tyburski's realm and instead suggested the restaurant staff review the meeting notes.

Parks and Open Space Master Plan Update- Mr. Tyburski shared on recent updates to the Master Plan. He stated that the West Mountain Park playground should be installed in August. The new program coordinator is active in the area of event/facility marketing. He also shared that they have selected a new maintenance

software and implementation will begin later this summer. The software will help tracking hours they spend doing certain tasks.

Mr. Bush shared that the Friends of the Farm Golf Tournament will be September 30, 2022. The last 2-3 years they have sold out pretty quickly. He encouraged people to sign up if they want to play, would like to sponsor, volunteer or donate items.

Adjourn

Ms. Keppel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Coppinger seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next Regular Meeting of the C. P. & R. Commission will be July 28, 2022 at 6 p.m. at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Taylor,
Commission Clerk