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Cc:

CULTURE, PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
January 27, 2011
REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Culture, Parks & Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were Commission members Linda Johnson, John Pendergast, Barbara Koff, Mary Liljedahl, Harry Ryan, David Bush and Director of Culture, Parks & Recreation Gerry Toner.

II. Minutes – October meeting

Mr. Bush made a motion to approve the October 28, 2010 minutes as written. Ms. Liljedahl seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

III. Election of Officers

Chairman Johnson stated that she will not be seeking another term. She thanked the Commission members as well as Mr. Toner for making her time on this Commission a great one. She stated that she has been serving on this Commission for over 21 years. She will continue to be a part of this group as the liaison for the Dog Park and Simsbury Celebrates.

Chairman Johnson stated that she has asked Mr. Bush to step up to the job of Chairman.

Chairman Johnson made a motion to nominate Mr. Bush to become Chairman of the Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission. Ms. Liljedahl seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Chairman Bush presented Ms. Johnson with a plaque in honor of her nine years as Chairman on the Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission.

Mr. Ryan made a motion to nominate Kelly Kearney as Vice Chairman of the Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission. Ms. Johnson seconded the

motion, which was unanimously approved.

IV. 2011 Golf Course Fees – Simsbury Farms Complex Committee Recommendations

Mr. Toner stated that overall, the rounds were off this year. A number of new promotions/specials were offered, which were popular. He stated that the Complex Committee feels that they need to attract more play, particularly with non-residents. They are recommending new fees, including: a senior 18 and 9 hole weekday fee; a senior non-resident unlimited pass; and a non-resident one time charge. Additionally, the Complex Committee is recommending increases on fees for carts and range balls. Mr. Toner stated that these fees are comparable to other courses in the area.

Mr. Ryan stated that the Complex Committee thoroughly discusses these fees. He urged the Commission to approve these increases. He stated that the key is to get non-residents to the Complex.

Mr. Pendergast questioned if this was the lowest rounds in ten years because of the economy. Mr. Toner stated that he believes it is a combination of the economy as well as the golf industry itself. Ms. Koff stated that the very hot weather may have also played a role in the decrease of rounds. Mr. Ryan stated that the rain contributed to this as well.

Mr. Bush questioned if the Town will track how much non-residents play at the Complex. Mr. Toner stated that they have the ability to track how much non-residents play and how frequently the new passes are utilized. This information is important for the Complex to have.

Mr. Bush stated that the Complex was down 1,150 rounds from the year before, which is the lowest July they have had in the last ten years. He stated that last year, rates were raised across the board.

Mr. Ryan made a motion to approve the 2011 golf course fees as proposed by the Simsbury Farms Complex Committee. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

V. 2011 Aquatic Fees – Simsbury Farms Complex Committee Recommendations

Mr. Toner handed out the 2010 aquatic facility summary. He stated that last year, the fee increase was sizable. Revenues were higher last year probably because of the hot weather. He stated that if the main building project proceeds and if the pool needs to be closed early, he does not believe it would be a good idea to raise fees this year. He stated that

there is no indication that the pool will have to close early. He believes that with the significant increases last year, no increases should be approved this year.

Mr. Ryan stated that there was an increase of \$18,000 in revenue this year. Ms. Johnson believes that the extra shade was helpful at the pool.

Mr. Bush questioned if there are any significant changes in operating cost that should be looked at. Mr. Toner stated that labor costs will stay level and maintenance costs are only increased slightly from last year.

Ms. Liljedahl made a motion to approve the recommended aquatic fees set by the Simsbury Farms Complex Committee. Ms. Koff seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

VI. FY 2011/12 Proposed Budget, Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. Toner stated that they have kept General Fund increases in line; keeping the Revenue Fund self sustaining is the goal. He stated that there were increased revenues in the vending areas and playgrounds and camps, as well. Also, the pool revenues increased last year.

Regarding expenses for the golf course, Mr. Bush questioned why there was a \$20,000 increase. Mr. Toner stated that agricultural supplies are included in this increase.

Mr. Toner stated that the Board of Selectmen has reviewed the CIP Plan. He stated that the highest priority is the main building renovation. Memorial Park is also included in this. The pool deck replacement has been added to the main building project. He stated that the total is just over \$3.1 million.

Mr. Toner stated that the proposed Memorial Pool project should get 8-10 more years out of the pool. Many people rely on this pool and the Town needs to keep it open as a feature for the day camp that utilizes Central School. The pool will be sandblasted and sealed in order to keep it operational.

Mr. Toner stated that golf course improvements totaling \$350,000 were in the CIP last year, although it did not pass through the Board of Finance. He stated that they will bring this up for consideration in the next fiscal year. He stated that they hope to use Capital Non-recurring money to get some projects done this year.

Chairman Bush left the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Ms. Johnson Chaired the rest of the meeting.

VII. Proposed Dog Park – Linda Johnson

Ms. Johnson stated that they are moving forward on the Dog Park. She met with Mr. Sawitzke and Dog Park Committee representatives. They have raised over \$10,000 in the past year, although approximately \$40,000 more still needs to be raised. She stated that drainage may be an issue, although it is still uncertain. She will be talking with Mr. Roy, Director of Public Works. Once a determination is made regarding the drainage, they will start with corporate funding. She stated that she is confident that the money will be raised, although it will not be easy. They are looking for completion by the fall of 2011.

VIII. Simsbury Celebrates – Linda Johnson

Ms. Johnson stated that it is the 10th Anniversary of Simsbury Celebrates. They have raised a great deal of money and they also have money left over from last year. They have already booked their key act for this year's event, which is a double trampoline with Olympic athletes.

Ms. Johnson stated that they recently received \$2,000 from Ensign Bickford, which is one of their biggest sponsors. They already have over \$5,000 in the bank. The Subcommittee for fundraising has also been formed, which is something new. She stated that they also have an increase in membership on the Simsbury Celebrates Committee.

IX. Other Business

There was none.

X. ADJOURN

Ms. Koff made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m. Ms. Liljedahl seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.