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Subject: Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes 05/24/2012
To: SimsburyCT_ParkRecMin
Cc:

Culture, Parks, and Recreation Commission

Special Meeting: Thursday, May 24, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at Simsbury Farms

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by chairman, David Bush. Present commission members included Kelly Kearney, Harry Ryan, Bill Mullen, Barbara Koff, Gerry Wetjen and Gerry Post. Gerry Toner, C., P. & R. Director, was also present. Mr. Bush and the C., P. & R. Commission recognized and congratulated Mr. Toner for his 30 year anniversary as director of Simsbury's Culture, Park, and Recreation Department.

II. Eagle Scout Project Presentations

Jay Burrows presented his Eagle Scout project proposal to the committee. He plans on creating a map kiosk in Town Forest Park to be located near the pavilion and the sand parking lot. It will display a map of the walking trails and facilities in both Town Forest Park and the Ethel Walker Woods. Currently there is nothing that illustrates all the hiking trails in this area. Mr. Burrows expects the project to cost about \$350.00, and plans to fund it with 10% of his summer job earnings and donations from family and friends. He will combine the design of two existing town park kiosks and will enlist the help of other scouts and their parents during the build. He expects the project to be completed by June 2013.

Zak Zikovich from Troop 175 presented his Eagle Scout project proposal to the committee. His plans include a three step process to make the trails in Belden Forest more known and accessible. His first step will be to create 2 signs to mark each of the entrances. The signs will be brown with yellow lettering to match other town park signs. The second step will involve clearing the trails of debris from the October 2011 storm. The third step will be to re-mark the blue and yellow trails. Mr. Zikovich expects the project to cost about \$215.00, and plans to fund it with can/bottle

returns. He has permission to collect all the bottles at the end of an upcoming half marathon in Simsbury. He will enlist the help of scouts and their parents, and expects the project to take just two weekends this July or August.

Mr. Toner noted that building permits from the town will be needed for both projects.

III. Minutes

Mr. Wetjen made a motion to approve the April 2012 C, P, & R meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ryan, and was unanimously passed.

IV. Golf Course Concessionaire Contract

Mr. Post reported that the first meeting about a golf concessionaire contract will take place next week. Members of the Simsbury Farms Complex Committee and the C., P. & R. Committee will be present. Their goals will be to examine Attilio's business plan as well as other contracts / leases; to go on field trips to comparable golf course restaurants, and to reassess the functionality of Simsbury Farm's current restaurant space. Once this research is completed, the committee expects to move quickly.

V. Simsbury Farms Golf Course Improvements

Improvements to the golf course are going well, and are still on time and on budget. Mike Wallace, Simsbury Farms Golf Course Superintendent, continues to do excellent work. He has recently shaped out the bunkers on 2 and 11. In the next couple of weeks Mr. Wallace will work on 14 and 5, before shutting down for the summer. He will resume construction in September.

VI. Simsbury Farms Main Building Project

The SF Main Building Project is on target to finish by mid-June. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for June 15. Newly installed items include an elevator, handicap-accessible areas, an energy efficient boiler, solar panels, and rubberized flooring. Much of the shrubbery and fencing, which divided the individual pool areas, has been torn down to create a more open look. Mr. Toner reported that the existing computer network system at the complex is outdated, and will be upgraded during the week of June 4. It will cost about \$5,000 to \$6,000.

VII. New / Other Business

Mr. Toner spoke briefly about a fund raiser by the Senior Men's Golf Club to create a Tom West Memorial Bench on Hole No. 1 at the golf course. \$10 donations are encouraged. Those who contribute will have their names recorded on a donor's list. Commission members discussed whether the meeting room in the main building could be named in honor/memory of an individual. They agreed to reserve judgment on the issue until further clarification is provided by the town about the rules governing naming rights.

Ms. Koff spoke about her second Simsbury Celebrates meeting as a liaison from the C., P. & R. Committee. She reported that the Simsbury Celebrates team is filled with several young volunteers who are extremely organized and energetic. To raise funds, they are planning a June 16th Tag Sale at Simsbury Farms and a June 20th evening out / raffle at the Red Stone Pub from 5 to 7 p.m. They are also selling insulated, plastic cold cups with lids and straws for \$8.00 each. The cups feature the horizontal oval "SIMS" logo.

Mr. Kearney revisited the idea of having automatic emergency defibrillators (AEDs) available at youth sports events in town. He felt that the C., P. & R. Commission needed input from the various sports leagues to better assess: 1. What they know about AEDs, 2. Whether they're interested in purchasing them, 3. If they already have AED-trained staff, or whether they need to train staff, 4. How they plan to offer continuous training to offset the high turnover rate for trainers and coaches, and 5. If they have places to store and secure AEDs. Mr. Kearney offered to draft a letter, and Mr. Toner agreed to sign and send the letter to the heads of the town's various sports organizations.

Mr. Bush made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Ryan seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

The C., P. & R. Commission followed up the meeting by taking a walking tour of the pool area and main building at Simsbury Farms.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorrie McElligott
Commission Clerk

