

From: Rick Bazzano July 31, 2008 4:07:32 PM
Subject: Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes 07/24/2008
To: SimsburyCT_ParkRecMin
Cc:

MINUTES
CULTURE, PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
JULY 24, 2008

I. CALL TO ORDER

A special meeting of the Culture, Parks & Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:00 pm at the Simsbury Farms Complex Pool Deck. Present were Chairman Linda Johnson, Commission Members Dave Bush, Karen Cortes, Kelly Kearney, Barbara Koff, Mary Liljedahl, John Pendergast, Harry Ryan, and Director of Culture, Parks & Recreation Gerry Toner.

II. 2008 SUMMER CAMP REPORT

Linda Johnson introduced Tom Tyburski, Simsbury Farms Recreation Supervisor, stating this was Tom's 10th summer with the program. Gerry Toner, Director of CP&R, said the success of the summer camp programs and the highly filled capacity levels was a direct result of Tom's efforts.

Tom explained some changes have been staff changes and more advertising is done by way of e-mail blasts to residents, newspaper advertising, and school handouts.

Tom distributed the Summer 2008 Camp Enrollment Report (Addendum I) to CP&R Commission members and gave an overview of most of the day camp programs.

Awesome Adventure – For ages 12-15 (grades 6-8) provides kids with different day trip adventures, such as river rafting and Laser Quest. The camp is offered for two one week sessions.

Awesome Extreme – For ages 12-15 (grades 6-8) provides kids with a four day trip. One place visited was Brownstone Adventure Park in Portland. This is offered for three one week sessions.

Camp Stuff-Ta-Doo – For grades 1-5 is a four session program with the 2-week camp being held at Central School. Swim lessons are provided, outside games, and field trips are part of the fun.

MINUTES
CULTURE, PARKS & RECREATION
PAGE 2
JULY 24, 2008

Koala Kids – For kids entering or in Kindergarten is also a 2-week four session program but for a half-day held at the Apple Barn. Children swim, play games and make crafts.

Camp Lots-Ta-Doo – The end of the summer program is two sessions of one week each offering different activities such as roller skating and team building.

Tariffville – A drop-in program being held at Squadron Line School this year due to construction happening at Tariffville offers kids outdoor play when weather permits.

Lego Camps – (FUNdamentals & Bash'em Bots) a new program started this year held for two weeks from 1:00-4:00 pm for the younger kids.

All other camp programs including tennis, golf, crew, and basketball were still going strong and also had high enrollment.

Tom reported usually his staff consists of 20-22 high-school and/or college age kids that return each year. Approximately 5-7 new recruits are needed each summer. The staff is all trained for their appropriate positions in Lifeguard Training, Red Cross, CPR, etc.

III. MINUTES – MAY 22, 2008

Linda Johnson said there was some confusion in the cost of the SIMS towels that are being sold in Town as a fundraiser for the Simsbury Celebrates! Event. She stated the towels are being sold for \$14 each and the verbiage of the May Minutes under III. Simsbury Celebrates!, paragraph 2 should read The towels are 100% cotton and are being sold for \$14 each. The \$1.00 off statement should be eliminated.

MINUTES
CULTURE, PARKS & RECREATION
PAGE 3
JULY 24, 2008

Dave Bush made a motion, seconded by Karen Cortes, and passed unanimously to approve the CP&R Commission Minutes of May 22, 2008 with the above

clarification.

IV. PROGRAM/FACILITY REPORT

Gerry Toner distributed the Simsbury Farms Golf Revenues/Rounds/Annual Income Report for 2008 (Addendum II). The report reflects numbers through June this year, and Gerry reported the Revenue Fund would be self-sustaining.

Gerry said revenue is fairly level compared with last year. July golf course rounds were good to-date. The season pass purchases were up approximately \$8,000-\$9,000. The golf outings and league play were both consistent with last year.

CP&R members stated the golf course was in the best shape ever. It was also reported that it was a good year for Attilios Restaurant.

Gerry reported to members that the Town is hiring a consultant to examine renovations/improvements needed at the main pool building, the Apple Barn, and the Maintenance Barn and report the monies needed for construction of the project.

The project is in the Town's 6-year plan and potentially the renovations could begin in two years.

V. DOG PARK FEASIBILITY - DISCUSSION

Linda Johnson explained she has been taking her own dog to the Granby Dog Park located in Salmon Brook Park, Granby off Route 10.

She stated the main purpose of the park is to allow dogs off-leash socialization.

MINUTES
CULTURE, PARKS & RECREATION
PAGE 4
JULY 24, 2008

The park is free to use. You must be at least age 10 to enter the fenced area, and no food or drinks are allowed.

Linda explained the dog park is required to be on Town Property that isn't already open-space land. Funding comes from volunteers and people who are interested in having a dog park. The Granby dog park has a double-chipped mulch surface, and all owners are responsible for cleaning up and bagging their dog messes.

Linda thought this was a good idea for Simsbury, and said it is good for the community and would be a destination location bringing more people to Town who don't have dog parks near them. It is also a free benefit to taxpayers who no longer or don't have children in the school system.

Linda has thought of a couple locations that could be options for a Town Dog park. It was suggested that a Town group come together to gather more information.

Linda Johnson will report on this subject again at the next CP&R Commission meeting.

VI. SIMSBURY CELEBRATES!

Linda Johnson distributed to members the Simsbury Celebrates! Donations and Expenses & Revenues Report for 2008. (Addendum III).

She stated to-date they have raised approximately half of the \$24,000 needed to run the event. They are not seeing some past donors, and a mailing will go out in the next few months.

Linda stated a fireworks sponsor is still being looked for.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Linda Johnson read a letter from a Town resident to the CP&R members.

MINUTES

CULTURE, PARKS & RECREATION

PAGE 5

JULY 24, 2008

The letter dated early July was to thank CP&R and the Farms Complex for being supportive of the "wants" asked for at the Farms pools. This included adding shade canopies on the pool patios and adding additional times for adult lap swim.

Linda Johnson introduced and welcomed new Commission member Kelly Kearney. Kelly said he and his family have lived in Simsbury since 2000 and live on Winterset Lane. Kelly owns Clarity Marketing which is a marketing consulting firm located on Hopmeadow Street.

Gerry Toner reported he has been approached by some groups looking for additional athletic fields. It was suggested to bring in the different sports groups in Town to the CP&R Commission meetings to get updates/ feedback, etc. on their organizations. The groups will be contacted and

asked for some information in advance before they report at a CP&R meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Culture, Parks & Recreation Commission adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Lungarini