

From: Rick Bazzano                      October 7, 2008 2:44:46 PM  
Subject: Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes 09/25/2008  
To: SimsburyCT\_ParkRecMin  
Cc:

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MINUTES  
CULTURE, PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
SEPTEMBER 25, 2008

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Culture, Parks & Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:35 pm in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were Chairman Linda Johnson, Commission Members Dave Bush, Karen Cortes, Kelly Kearney, Barbara Koff, Harry Ryan, and Director of Culture, Parks & Recreation Gerry Toner.

Linda Johnson introduced Bob Hensley, the Board of Selectmen Liason and Anita Miller and Ken Picard, Dog Park Board Members.

## II. MINUTES – JULY 24, 2008

Linda Johnson noted in the above Minutes, page 4, Paragraph 2, the first line should read "the dog park needs to be on Town Property."

Also noted, on page 4, under Simsbury Celebrates!, Paragraph 2, the first line should read “approximately less than half the \$24,000 . . .”.

Dave Bush made a motion, seconded by Harry Ryan, and passed unanimously to approve the July 24, 2008 Minutes with the above changes.

### III. CORRESPONDENCE - BRIDGE OF FLOWERS BOARD REQUEST

Linda Johnson read correspondence dated May 22, 2008 addressed to Mary Glassman and the Board of Selectmen. The 15 person Board of the Bridge of Flowers is asking if CP&R is willing to pay for the electric meter bill to the bridge. The past year the bill ran approximately \$350-\$375.

The correspondence explained originally the Town paid the bill and over time volunteers of the bridge took over the expense.

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After a brief discussion by the CP&R members, Dave Bush made a motion, seconded by Kelly Kearney, and passed unanimously to table this until the time CP&R discusses the 09/10 budget.

#### IV. DOG PARK - DISCUSSION

Linda Johnson displayed map pictures of the tentative location of the proposed dog park to CP&R members. The area being considered is down Town Forest Road at the left end.

Linda stated the location is ideal in that it is not near residences, there is a parking area, a pavilion on site that can be used, there is access to water, and it is adjacent to the Ethel Walker trails.

Linda explained again the area would be fenced in and under one acre. All dogs need to be accompanied by an adult and have appropriate shots and vaccinations. The use is for the dogs off-leash play and socialization.

The Dog Park Board Members list (Addendum I) was distributed.

The CP&R members discussed past and present use of the tentative location and any Town liability.

Dave Bush made a motion, seconded by Karen Cortes, and passed unanimously by the CP&R Commission stating the CP&R Commission would like the Dog Park Board to come back to the Commission with an Action Plan and an opinion from the Town Attorney regarding the liability issues of a Dog Park.

#### V. SIMSBURY FARM ACCESS ROAD

Gerry Toner explained the on-going discussion and proposal of the Access Road at the Farms that originally was proposed in the 1999 Master Plan. This past year an application was submitted through the STEAP Grant Program to fund construction of the road.

However, he said this is an open-ended grant program and there is no specific time frame when they will be notified.

Gerry stated there has been increased traffic and congestion at the Farms. The owner of the restaurant has been successful but still seeks a beer/wine liquor license. Also with his one-year contract up in October there is an urgency to getting the access road done.

Gerry said the project can start in-house with a gravel road put in place that is operational and if the grant goes through then the road can be paved at that time.

Gerry showed an architectural plan of the Farms Complex and where the proposed access road will be.

Dave Bush made a motion, seconded by Barbara Koff, and passed unanimously to move forward with the approval process of the access road at the Simsbury Farms Complex.

#### VI. ICE RINK PROPOSED FEES - 2009

Gerry Toner distributed the Farms Ice Rink Proposed 2008/09 Rental Rates (Addendum II) to the CP&R Commission members.

He explained a \$5 minimal increase is proposed for all organizations who will rent the rink. This increase has also been recommended by the Complex Committee.

Dave Bush made a motion, seconded by Kelly Kearney, and passed unanimously to approve the Simsbury Farms Ice Rink Rental Rates for 2008/2009 as indicated.

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#### VII. ATHLETIC FIELD SUB-COMMITTEE - DISCUSSION

Members who volunteered for the sub-committee are Linda Johnson and Dave Bush. Kelly Kearney expressed interest in being involved as well.

Gerry Toner explained this is similar to what CP&R did in 1994 bringing sports organizations in to report on their field usage, list of priorities, needs, etc.

Special meetings will be set up for this to take place, and Gerry will send

out e-mails to CP&R members with details.

#### VIII. SIMSBURY FARMS CONSULTANT

Gerry Toner reminded the CP&R Commission members that the reconstruction of the Main Building at the Farms was a main item in the 6-year Master Plan. Recently the BOS reviewed this project and decided if this was to move forward, an accurate cost of the project was needed before the January 15th budget process takes place.

The project has been turned over to the public building committee who has retained Schoenhardt Associates (who also worked on the golf Club House). They have done a preliminary walk-thru of the premises.

Gerry explained representation from the Complex Committee, himself and others are also advising Schoenhardt. Harry Ryan, from CP&R, said he would like to help out as well.

#### IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Linda reported that the Simsbury Celebrates! Group taped an SCTV half hour episode yesterday that will start airing in October.

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Linda distributed to members the Simsbury Celebrates! Donations List to date for 2008. (Addendum III). She said the biggest obstacle was the lacking funds. However, Hoffman Motors donated \$1,000 to the event.

Currently there was not a fireworks sponser and a mailing/e-mail will go out asking residents to donate to a "Fireworks Booster Club" to help cover the cost.

#### X. ADJOURNMENT

The Culture, Parks & Recreation Commission adjourned the meeting at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Lungarini

