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Cc:

CULTURE, PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
October 28, 2010
REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Culture, Parks & Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:35 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were Commission members Linda Johnson, Barbara Koff, Kelly Kearney, Mary Liljedahl, Harry Ryan, Joe Grace, David Bush and Director of Culture, Parks & Recreation Gerry Toner.

Chairman Johnson stated that Karen Cortes submitted her resignation. She is now Registrar of Voters for the Democratic Party.

Mr. Harry made a motion to accept Ms. Cortes' resignation with regret. Mr. Bush seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

II. Minutes – July meeting

Mr. Bush made a motion to approve the July 22, 2010 minutes as written. Mr. Grace seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

III. Simsbury Farms Gold Course - Report

Mr. Toner stated that, regarding revenues through September year to date, the numbers are down slightly from last year. He stated that outing revenue was up this year. Outings account for approximately 5% of the play at Simsbury Farms and approximately 10% of the revenue. He stated that their numbers are consistent with other courses in the area. Mr. Toner stated that July numbers were low, due primarily to the heat. September was great and outings were up. Overall, the conditions of the course were at a high level. They are currently trying to lock in outings and league play for next year. They are also looking to add two more leagues for next year, although they have not committed as of yet.

Mr. Toner stated that there was a donation made to the course by Mr. Peter

Prowda, who donated the funding for 28 pine trees on the right side of hole number three. They had a golf course architect come in to consult on the project and insure that these trees were consistent with the character of the course. Mr. Bush suggested getting an article in the local newspaper to thank Mr. Prowda for this generous donation.

Mr. Bush stated that since they are down on number of rounds from last year, they need to continue to look at marketing plans. He suggested getting the Complex Committee's input on pricing. Mr. Toner stated that there has been discussion regarding surcharges. The Complex Committee will be discussing fees in the near future.

IV. Gold Course Restaurant – Contract Extension

Mr. Toner stated that Attilio's last contract allowed for a two year extension. The Complex Committee discussed this issue at their last meeting. Some concerns were expressed about the restaurant operation. The Committee recommended that the contract be extended for two years, although they feel that service related issues need to be addressed.

Mr. Bush stated that he feels that there are issues with the menu that also need to be discussed with Attilio. He stated that the other issue is that he would like to have the restaurant open on Sundays when there is a three day weekend.

Mr. Kearney suggested having some kind of survey that patrons can take in order to give their feedback about the restaurant.

Mr. Grace stated that what goes on at that Complex reflects heavily on the Town. Mr. Toner stated that the restaurant will now be open during some of the winter months. Mr. Bush stated that he feels that the restaurant should be open if the course has an early opening in the spring.

Mr. Bush made a motion to extend the contract for two years for the current concessionaire at the Simsbury Farms Complex and that the concerns of the Complex Committee are addressed. Mr. Grace seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

V. Simsbury Farms Main Building Study – Update

Mr. Toner stated that there will be a public information meeting regarding the Simsbury Farms Complex renovations. The project has moved forward and the Public Building Committee is now looking to turn it back over to the Board of Selectmen. He feels that it is important for this Committee to attend the public information meeting in order to show support for the project. The Architect will be doing the presentation. Mr. Toner stated

that the Board of Selectmen asked that the project be brought in at under \$2 million. It is now a good time to bid on projects like this one.

Mr. Kearney made a motion that the Culture, Parks & Recreation Commission resolves, as stated both to Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen, that the Simsbury Farms Complex renovations and additions should be a top Capital Improvement Project to ensure the safety, efficiency and ongoing viability of the facility for Simsbury residents. Joe Grace seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

VI. Proposed Dog Park – Linda Johnson

Chairman Johnson stated that they had a fundraiser called “Howleen and the Pup Parade”. It was attended by approximately 20 dogs and their owners. The event was sponsored by Fitzgerald’s and Bill Selig Jewelers. Prizes were awarded and pictures were taken, which will be on the Town website.

Chairman Johnson stated that they need approximately \$35,000 for the dog park; they currently have approximately \$8,000. They plan on opening the dog park in September of 2011.

Chairman Johnson stated that the next big event will be SantaPaws. This event will be held on the first Saturday in December at Boy Scout Hall. Owners can bring their dogs and have their dogs photographed with Santa. She stated that Simsbury’s Animal Control Officer will be Santa; a professional photographer will be taking pictures. Vendors will also be at this event.

VII. Simsbury Celebrates – Linda Johnson

Chairman Johnson stated that they did a taping at SCTV regarding Simsbury Celebrates. She stated that they are having a challenging time fundraising; they have approximately \$20,000 already raised. She stated that she is hoping that the ginger bread contest will help.

Chairman Johnson stated that they have cut back in a couple of areas this year for Simsbury Celebrates, although she does not believe that they will be noticeable. She stated that next year will be the 10th year anniversary of Simsbury Celebrates. They will be selling glow stick necklaces for \$2 this year. All profits will go for next year’s event.

Chairman Johnson stated that the original Simsbury Celebrates Committee had two goals: that the event would be free and opened to everyone; and that it would radically increase Town involvement. She stated that she is proud to say that they have achieved both of these goals. This is the biggest family event in the Valley. Everyone pulling together made Simsbury

Celebrates what it is today.

VIII. Other Business

There was none.

IX. Adjourn

Mr. Grace made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Ms. Liljedahl seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.