

TOWN OF SIMSBURY – CULTURE, PARKS, AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Subject to Vote of Approval – Regular Meeting Minutes – **Thursday, September 27, 2018** – 2 pages

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by David Bush, Chairman, in the Main Meeting Room of Town Hall. Other commission members who were present included Gerry Wetjen, Kelly Kearney, Dennis Fallon, Sarah Cramer, Lori Coppinger and Bill Mullen. The C. P. & R. Director, Thomas Tyburski, and Selectman, Chris Peterson, were also in attendance.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

No changes were made to the July 26, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes. Mr. Bush declared the minutes approved and requested that they be put on record.

Public Session

No one spoke during public session.

Fifth Tee Fundraising Proposal

Peter Prowda, Simsbury Farms Golf Course Fifth Tee (forward tee) Fundraising Proposal. Mr. Prowda designed, wrote and distributed a brochure that proposes relocating the intermediate fifth tee to make this section more playable for seniors. He and another donor will generously match all donations made to this project—dollar for dollar, up to \$5,000—by the cut-off date of January 1, 2019. Brochures are available at the Pro Shop and the Simsbury Farms Main Building.

Simsbury Farms Rink Eagle Scout Project Proposal

Talon Perdue, Eagle Scout Candidate, Simsbury Farms Rink Project Proposal. Mr. Mullen made a motion to approve the Eagle Scout proposal made by Talon Perdue, Troop 175, to renovate the scorer's box and to replace the floor mats leading from the main warming room to the ice rink. Mr. Kearney seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Friends of Simsbury Farms – Report

More than \$30,000 is currently in the Friend's bank account. Its Board of Directors will be expanding from nine to eleven. New board members are being sought.

Gerry Wetjen / Friends of Simsbury Farms Practice Area – Survey

A 12-page survey summary report was distributed. A 1-page report with comments from the golf staff was attached. Almost 70% of respondents agreed that a short game practice facility is needed. However, only 37% said that they might contribute to construction costs. Many felt that the proposed location, on the right side of the 8th hole, was too far from the main facility. Mr. Wetjen stated that in his opinion, locating it elsewhere would cause safety problems, involve re-routing existing holes, and make the entire project much more expensive. After a healthy debate which led to many unanswered questions, discussion was tabled.

Update on Golf 5th Green Construction Project

Due to wet weather, work on the fifth green is running two weeks behind. Drainage has been installed. The architect will set the grades tomorrow. Mr. Bush expressed his sincere appreciation to Golf Course Superintendent Mike Wallace and his team for their excellent work on this project.

Update on Natural Gas Line Construction

Wet weather has delayed work by a week and a half. Final markings were completed today. Construction will begin tomorrow at the SF main building / pool area.

Golf Course Financial Report

A spreadsheet titled, “Simsbury Farms Golf Course Annual Income” was distributed. It compared 18 years of greens fees and rounds from March through December 2000 to 2018. Figures were collected through the end of August. Income for July and August was very low because of excessively rainy and hot and humid weather. Alternately, revenues for outings were higher than previous years. The Connecticut Make-A-Wish Foundation Tournament on September 21 was a success. Participation, as well as the amount of funds raised, was the highest it has ever been in its twenty-six-year run. They are reserving the SF course for next year.

Old Business. None.

New Business

Parks and Open Space Master Plan Draft. A 7-page draft RFQ for consultant services was handed out. A subcommittee—consisting of members from the Open Space Committee and the C. P. & R. Commission—will work with Mr. Tyburski and Ms. Capriola to help select a consultant and create the master plan document. The process is expected to take a year. It will include public hearings and a review of the town’s plan of development.

Golf Course Business Plan Draft. A 24-page report prepared by Mr. Wetjen, Mr. Wallace and Mr. Verrengia was distributed. It is an update to the 2014 business plan. The most significant changes being proposed are: 1. Transitioning from the current multi-rate, resident/non-resident system to a more simplified one-rate plan, and 2. Doubling the equipment/maintenance surcharge. Until the commission votes upon a new rate structure, this topic will be a recurring agenda item. A subcommittee of the Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission will be formed to work with staff to finalize the business plan.

Golf Course Irrigation Study. An RFQ generated four responses. Two candidates are being interviewed. An entire system evaluation and inventory will be conducted. A summary report will include a projected budget and timeline for good/better/best solutions.

Golf Course Restaurant. The current vendor’s contract will expire soon. He is interested in renewing. A comprehensive survey will be sent to the golf community to evaluate the quality of this past season’s service and food. Mr. Peterson and board members briefly talked about how a liquor license and improved facilities could attract more RFPs and make the restaurant more profitable in the future. The discussion was tabled for future meetings. The town manager is reviewing the current lease agreement.

Freedom of Information Act Training. Mr. Tyburski encouraged commission members to attend the Freedom of Information Act training class being held on Monday, October 29 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at SPL.

Mr. Mullen announced that he will no longer be a Simsbury resident. He is resigning from the commission, effective November 1. On behalf of the commission, Mr. Bush thanked Mr. Mullen for his dedicated years of service and his expertise in the building industry.

C.P.&R. Director’s Report. Mr. Tyburski gave a quick summary of upcoming C. P. & R. events. He also announced that the rink will have ice by the end of October. Openings are available for skating instructors and guards, and ice time can be reserved now. The rink ceiling painting project will be deferred until later.

Adjournment

Mr. Kearney made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Fallon seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next Regular Meeting of the C. P. & R. Commission is scheduled for Thursday, October 25, 2018 at 7 p.m. in the main meeting room of Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted, Lorrie McElligott, *Commission Clerk*