

TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING
January 13, 2014

Draft Document – subject to Commission Approval

The Regular Meeting and Open Town Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Szymanski at 6:02 p.m. in the Cafeteria at the East Windsor High School, 76 S. Main Street, East Windsor, CT.

PRESENT: Chairman Szymanski, Commissioners Bagdikian, Balch, Leach and Simpkins; Park Director Maltese and Mary Lou Morell from the Parks and Recreation Office.

ABSENT: Selectman Richards.

GUESTS: Town Planner, Laurie Whitten and Planning & Zoning Commission Chairman, Joe Ouellette.

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:

A quorum was established as five commission members were present.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: To APPROVE minutes of November 12, 2013 Regular Meeting as written.

Bagdikian moved/Balch seconded/VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous

EAST WINDSOR YOUTH SOCCER CLUB

Mr. Brian Turley presented an overview of the program. In 2013 there were 200 participants in 10 recreational teams and 6 travel teams, 3-girls and 3-boys, for U-10, U-12 and U-14. The U-10 boys and the U-14 girls won their divisions.

The Soccer Club had hired Challenger Sports from Rhode Island to assist with the training of coaches. Time was devoted to each team separately. The Soccer Club coaches have free access to the Challenger Sports website to obtain coaching materials and drills for practices. East Windsor will be partnering with Windsor Locks in the future to continue the relationship with Challenger Sports.

The East Windsor Soccer Club is developing a new website which should be operational this spring.

EAST WINDSOR SOCCER CLUB: (continued)

There are open positions on the Board of Directors. One member is stepping down after 15 years of service. These positions need to be filled. The Board meets 8 times a year with their first meeting in 2014 during the month of February.

Mr. Turley informed the Commissioners that the Soccer Club has purchased new goals for Broad Brook Elementary School fields and there is anticipation for new fields in the future.

LITTLE LEAGUE UPDATES:

Mr. Brian Feeney reported to the Commissioners that there is declining participation in this sport over the past several years, which is not unlike other towns as well. Total participants were 50 girls and 120 boys. Their goal is to increase participation across all ages and genders.

Previously the Board of Directors were small – 6-7 members; now comprises of 14 members. They intent to do more fundraising and hold more events for community involvement.

In 2013 they held 2 coaching clinics with Chris Corkum for the coaches. One clinic involved Mr. Corkum coaching 15-20 players so that the coaches could observe how he handles a team practice. There were two AA clinics, one AA clinic and instruction and one AAA Majors as well.

The infield field at the Broad Brook Elementary School diamond was skinned so that the ball had a more nature bounce in its play and kept the players involved in the game. The grass was inhibiting the ball from bouncing/rolling and not extending into the field.

Field 3 as Osborne has an all dirt infield, the softball field is all dirt and Field One is the major field for play. Player benches were installed at the AA field and now need fences in front of benches.

Parks Director Maltese inquired about the use of the Concession stand. Mr. Feeney responded that only one director has a Safe Food Handler License and he is stepping down. The only foods served are pizza, hot dogs and snack foods which are either microwaved or steamed. Each evening a parent volunteers to supervise the operation. Director Maltese then stated that the Ansul system over the grill can be removed or disengaged as the Parks and Recreation Department pays to have it inspected each year. The question arose as to who owns the grills at East Windsor Park. East Windsor Sports feels they are the owner of the grill. This issue will be researched by the Park and Recreation Office.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. BMX Skateboard Park

No update.

- b. East Windsor Dog Park

No discussion.

- c. Disc Golf

Mr. Brian Donnelly previously submitted a proposal to Parks & Recreation for consideration to establish a Disc Golf course on the Kogut Property on Reservoir Road. Disc Golf is a passive activity with low or free cost to participate. He would like to see a park established and solicit sponsors for the purchase of baskets for the course. He has walked the area and has plotted out the goal placements. It is not necessary to clear cut the land, just clear out brush along the course as it leads to each basket. Perhaps community service volunteers could accomplish this task. The cost to establish this course could be five figures.

If the Parks & Recreation Commission feels this is viable and an enhancement to recreation, the next step would be to submit the plan and map to Planning & Zoning for approval. Once approved, the course would be up and running in no time.

Director Maltese stated that this is a conceptual idea presented by a resident at this time. The Commission will need to review materials and have a discussion for consideration to move forward.

Mr. Brian Feeney asked whether there was any consideration for a running trail. Mr. Donnelly stated the Disc Golf course is approximately a 3+ mile circuit which certainly could be used for jogging as well.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Plan of Conservation & Development

Miss Whitten, Town Planner, stated the Plan is a road map and guide to the future which is to be updated every 10 years. It is used to guide development and conservation in the area. It was developed in part through a Community Survey through Survey Monkey (300 responses). The Town is mandated to update this plan or risk the State withholding future funds distribution to the Town.

The Commission needs to look at parks and set some goals for the next 10-20 years. These goals would be on-going. Need to determine who would

NEW BUSINESS/a. Plan of Conservation & Development (continued):

implement, guide and monitor and maintain facilities. Facilities such as trails, outdoor recreation, Scantic River Corridor, public access to waterways etc. are the concerns expressed in the survey.

The current Parks and Recreation park descriptions need to be updated to include the East Windsor Dog Park, skateboard park and Community Gardens.

Regarding open space area, Miss Whitten asked the Commission what they would like to see for the future. Chairman Szymanski stated that the Commission needs time to review the information and get back to her with their thoughts, concerns and suggestions.

Resident, 23 Rice Road stated we have a hiking trail along the American Heritage River watercourse which is a 2 ½ mile loop. On New Year's Day at the annual hiking event, 135 people attended. This is a great facility for the town. You can hike and bike the trail and canoe/kayak for 6 miles down the Scantic River.

Joe Burger, 1 Hemlock Drive suggested creating a bike trail that parallels the railroad tract from East Windsor through Enfield to the Massachusetts state line. Miss Whitten also commented on creating bike lanes on Town roads.

b. Financial Accounts Review

Current Budget by Department was reviewed. Director Maltese informed the Commissioners that comparing this report with that of last year's for the same time period, we are in line with expenditures. She stated that upcoming expenses from the Site Improvement line item would include either parking rails or shorter shrub replacements at East Windsor Park for the bushes removed that were damaged by last winter's storm between the basketball court and the waterfront area. She is also considering resurfacing the basketball court at Pierce Park.

c. 2014 Park Fees and User Fees

Director Maltese reviewed with the Commission the current summer pricing structure for the East Windsor Park facility to include the pavilions and user fees at various locations that are either rental or program site locations.

MOTION: To MAINTAIN the present fee structure for 2014.

Simpkins moved/Balch seconded/VOTE: Unanimous

NEW BUSINESS (continued):

d. 2014-2015 Budget submission

Director Maltese informed the Commission that the Budget was handed into the Selectman's Office. She stated that there is an increase in the part-time salary line item due to the pay increase awarded to the office part-time staff and the State mandated minimum wage increase effective 1/1/2014. There will also be an additional increase to the minimum wage effective 1/1/2015. The part-time grounds salary was broken out as a separate line item to account for that expense. Perhaps in the future the part-time grounds salary expense may become part of the Public Works budget as the supervisor's salary has been for several years. The Purchased Services line item was increased to meet the actual expense as opposed to managing expenses to the bottom line, which we have had to do in the past. To balance our budget, the Electric and Programs line items were decreased.

MOTION: To ACCEPT the 2014-2015 proposed budget as submitted to the Selectman's Office.

Balch moved/Simpkins seconded/VOTE: Unanimous

e. CIP submission

Director Maltese discussed the proposal submitted. January 29, 2014 is the scheduled date for Parks and Recreation to make their formal presentation to the CIP Committee. A new item included is a request for security cameras at East Windsor Park for \$19,875. This is the hub of summer activity and the area of vandalism. Also requested is a 5-6-7 year plan for replacement of playground equipment which is a safety factor. Director Maltese also included a project in conjunction with the East Windsor Police Department to replace the fencing around the perimeter of the Safety Complex with new fencing as the Boundless Playground facility is within that location. A resubmission from prior years is a request to dredge the swim area at East Windsor Park and to replace the lower drain outlet at the reservoir.

MOTION: To ACCEPT the CIP budget as presented.

Balch moved/Bagdikian seconded/VOTE: Unanimous

f. Park Director's Report

Director Maltese reported letters/emails were sent to last year's summer staff to determine who will be returning for this summer. Responses due back by March 1, 2014. To date, no replies.

NEW BUSINESS/f. Park Director's Report (continued):

Director Maltese informed the Commission that she has the opportunity to purchase two indoor inflatable apparatus. One is a slide for \$1,500 and the other is a 3-part obstacle course for \$2,500. If purchased new the total cost for both is \$15,000. She can purchase one or both which would be used for Parks and Recreation events and for Community events. She is seeking a response from Cirma for insurance purposes prior to moving forward. Presently we are renting apparatus for Community Day, Summer Camp Carnival and the Dog swim event. Each rental ranges from \$200 - \$500.

Director Maltese is requesting that the summer camp fee remains status quo. She does not see a need to increase staff unless there are a greater number of campers for 2014.

The Non-Resident Policy at East Windsor Park for Monday through Thursday will be actively promoted this year to increase usage. Commissioner Balch asked where the non-residents are coming from which Director Maltese stated from all surrounding towns. And even though some surrounding towns have swimming facilities, a change of venue/type of facility were reasons stated when asked why they attend East Windsor Park.

The 5th Annual Panther Plunge, to benefit the East Windsor Fuel Bank, will be held on Sunday, March 16, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. at East Windsor Park. The day was changed to Sunday as Saturday, March 15, 2014 is the annual St. Patrick's Day parade in Hartford and we do not want to conflict with that event.

MOTION: To ACCEPT the Park Director's report as presented.

Simpkins moved/Balch seconded/VOTE: Unanimous

Leagues/Abbe Road Soccer Complex/Broad Brook Pond/ Pierce Memorial Park (Windsorville)/Prospect Hill Park (Warehouse Point)/Warehouse Point (Osborne Field) Park:

No discussion this evening.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Director Maltese asked for a motion to approve a \$700 contribution to East Windsor Youth Basketball for janitorial services.

MOTION: To APPROVE a contribution of \$700 to East Windsor Youth Basketball for janitorial services.

Simpkins moved/Balch seconded/VOTE: Unanimous

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Bills were signed by Commissioner Simpkins.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Monday, March 10, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Parks and Recreation Office at the East Windsor High School.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: To ADJOURN meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Simpkins moved/Balch seconded/VOTE: In Favor: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted, _____

Mary Lou Morell
Parks & Recreation Department