

TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING
July 14, 2014

Draft Document – subject to Commission Approval

The Special Meeting was called to order by Chairman Szymanski at 6:00 p.m. in the Parks & Recreation Office, 76 S. Main Street, East Windsor, CT.

PRESENT: Chairman Szymanski, Commissioners Bagdikian, Balch and Leach; Park Director Maltese and Mary Lou Morell from the Park Office; Selectmen Dale Nelson and Jim Richards.

ABSENT: Commissioner Simpkins.

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:

A quorum was established as four commission members were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. BMX Skateboard Park

No Report

- b. East Windsor Dog Park

Director Maltese reported that the Barktoberfest will be held at East Windsor Park on Saturday, October 4, 2014.

MOTION: To APPROVE the East Windsor Dog Park Barktoberfest Event at East Windsor Park on Saturday, October 4, 2014.

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

OLD BUSINESS/ (continued):

c. Disc Golf

Brian Donnelly is proposing an alternate site at East Windsor Park other than the initially proposed course at the Kogut property. The course would be a 9-hole course instead of an 18-hole course previously proposed. A diagram of the proposed course was handed out to the Commissioners and guests. The course could be established behind Ball Field #2, avoiding Ball Field #1 entirely, but there would be a fly over at this field when it is not in use. An alternate “T” could be set up at 3rd base. The Parks and Recreation Department would collect a gate fee during summer operating hours and during the closed season a collection box for donations could be implemented.

Mr. Donnelly attended the presentation in Windsor Locks regarding walking/biking/hiking/passive recreation in the area. Disc Golf would fit into the parameter of passive recreation.

Commissioner Bagdikian voiced concern for disc damage to trees near baskets. Commissioner Balch also stated there could be damage to the grass, trees and environment. Mr. Donnelly stated that the “T’s” are 50’ from the tree line/adjoining properties that border the Park. The course trail could be marked by stone dust/mulch/painted lines whatever would be the preference.

Director Maltese stated that the 824 referral process must be followed and a consultation with Public Works as to the maintenance of the area.

It was asked which other Towns has a course. Mr. Donnelly stated Bristol, Tolland and Wickham Park in East Hartford/Manchester.

By establishing a Disc Golf course within the Park, it would introduce townspeople who might not otherwise visit the Park. It would be a revenue source during seasonal Park hours. Disc Golf can be played 12 months of the year and the Town can regulate hours and months of use.

Chairman Szymanski suggests walking the property before any decision is made. It was agreed that the Commissioners, Director Maltese and Mr. Donnelly meet at East Windsor Park on Thursday, July 17th at 6:00 p.m. to view the proposed course lay out.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Financial Accounts Review

Parks Director Maltese handed out the Budget by Department for June for review.

NEW BUSINESS/a. Financial Accounts Review (continued):

She reported that the Umpire line item was not spent as there was no league in 2014.

Director Maltese stated that 2014-2015 Fiscal Year Budget did not include a line for electricity as it has been moved to the Selectman's budget. In the past, \$10,000 of the electricity \$15,000 line item was utilized for the utility leaving \$5,000 to be added to existing lines for a realistic budget. The Department has never overspent its budget nor sought an added year-end appropriation. Director Maltese discussed this concern with the Treasurer who will keep this concern on file to be considered if an added appropriation is requested for fiscal year 2014-2015.

Chairman Szymanski did not realize the electric line item would be removed from the Department budget. That leaves the Department no way to manage and evaluate services used (cannot detect irregularities).

Director Maltese stated by combining all Town bills together, it was possible to get a better rate for all. She will request that a copy of all Department bills be send to us.

Director Maltese informed the Commissioners that the requested CIP 2014-2015 sum of \$22,375 for security cameras at East Windsor has been sent back to the Committee for reevaluation. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 16, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

2015-2016 CIP requests being pursued are:

1. Drainage/dredging of the Reservoir
2. Drainage pipe at East Windsor Park is always an issue

Director Maltese stated that the flooring at the Pavilions is being assessed for the proper long term covering. The painted surface does not hold up much longer than a few years. Positive feedback has been received on the renovations to the Pavilions and their restrooms.

b. Park Director's Report

Director Maltese stated that she participated, along with First Selectman Menard and the North Central Health Department, in viewing the Town for its capability for a walkability/bike ability Town. Many photos were taken and she is awaiting the report. This will allow the Town to seek grants for implementation of trails throughout the Town.

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

Director Maltese informed the Commissioners that the Summer Camp program is full for weeks 1 – 4. We have received good revenue from Pavilion rentals. She has received many favorable responses that non-residents are grateful for the use of East Windsor Park on mid-week days. The EWP Snack Bar menu has been expanded. Seasonal staff is commended on great job this season and lifeguard training is held every 2 weeks with live bodies this year. This provides for more realistic situations.

Director Maltese is pursuing the feasibility to extend water across the road from East Winsor Park to the Dog Park. Public Works is working on details to put a proposal together. The project will be controlled by the Parks & Recreation Department but paid for by the Dog Park.

Director Maltese is now administering the ERASE program (East of the River Substance Abuse) which was formerly handled at the Human Services Department. A National Prescription take back day is being scheduled with the Police Department – the DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency) provides the canister for drop off at no charge. We will hold the 1st Annual Movie Night in the Park with ERASE hosting this event at East Windsor Park on Thursday, August 14th. It is a free public, PG movie to be shown on a big screen at dusk. The snack bar will be open, kid's games will be set up and a bounce house will be available for entertainment prior to the movie. Cost is approximately \$900.

MOTION: To APPROVE the Park Director's Report as presented.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

MISCELLANEOUS:

Chairman Szymanski stated the East Windsor Athletic Club held their Golf Tournament, which was sold out and raised \$8,000. \$2,000 is given in scholarships each year to High School seniors. The Athletic Club recently paid for the materials to construct the new dugouts at the girls' softball field.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Bills were signed by Commission Balch..

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: To ADJOURN meeting at 7:01 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Morell
Recording Secretary