

Wallingford Parks & Recreation Department
Parks & Recreation Commission
Minutes for Wednesday, September 9, 2020
8:00 a.m. at Parks and Recreation Department

Commissioners in Attendance:

Dave Gelo, Jason Michael, Steve Rossacci, and Mike Savenelli Sr

Recreation Commission Members Absent: Don Crouch

Recreation Department Staff Present: Kenny Michaels, Director of Recreation Parks & Recreation

Special Guests: None

Opening Remarks: Chairperson Dave Gelo called the meeting to order @ 8:07 a.m.

Minutes:

A motion made by Mike Savenelli Sr. and seconded by Jason Michael to approved minutes from the March meeting.

Agenda Items:

1. Grand St. Park -Update on Phase 1 – Phase 2?

Phase 1 was completed with redoing the playground park. At the end of June, Public Works spread the playground surface and a vendor installed the decorative wood rail fencing.

Marion Heffernon is still planning on doing an Urban oasis on the backside of the building near the basketball court.

Phase 2 is to add a seasonal shade structure 20'x20', replace basketball back boards and resurface basketball court. Phase 2 timeframe is a TBD – this is dependent on available funds and might need to wait until the next fiscal year.

2. Wallace Park - Legacy Garden – Presentation Rescheduled

Stones have been ordered and will take 3-4 weeks for delivery. We will oversee the installation of the stones. The hosta plants will be transplanted to the Park & Rec for replanting. The dedication will take place early/mid October. Mike and Don will notify each group.

3. Review Park Fees

Kenny is scheduling a meeting with his management team to review facility pricing fees. This would include meeting/party rooms and park/fields rentals. They are currently looking at other towns to see what they charge for rentals.

The Rec Commission **Motion:** To proceed forward to investigate charging the YMCA and Ulbrich Boys & Girls Club for use of parks for various activities. This motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

4. Community Lake – Annual Clearing of 900' of shoreline

This project is paid through our facility fees which was used for COVID items. Due to COVID our facility revenue is minimal for January – June. The field and pavilion rentals have just started picking up. Kenny suggested getting a revised clearing fee for twice a year.

5. P&R By-Laws Draft - Don Crouch

Tabled until next meeting.

6. Prageman Park – New Field - Update

Public Works told Kenny that they will begin preparation for sod in the next week or two barring any unforeseen jobs that need immediate attention. There is concern that if Public Works isn't able to complete this within this timeframe it will be too late to plant the sod.

Field 5 lost 2 light heads and 1 light head is bent and hanging on the pole. Replacement will take a while to replace.

Basketball court is in high usage, but with Meriden putting hoops back up there should be less kids using it.

7. Community Pool Update - Mike Savenelli

A tour for the entire Town Council, except one council member who was on medical leave, of Community Pool was done. They were surprised at the poor condition of the pool. Chris Shortell has joined the Pool Committee and is very active in the process. The Pool Committee needs to resubmit the proposal to the Town Council and is looking at the November/December timeframe. A concern of the Pool committee is equipment that hasn't been used for a season might now have problems. Fixing these issues as they arise could be expensive. A letter was sent to Mike Fortuna, TLB Architecture, on the exact size of the pool and splash pad. The pool is 8604 sq ft and the splash pad is 2233 sq ft. The current pool size is 43,000 sqft. In surveying area towns, the combination of pool and splash pad size is similar to other towns.

The Pool Committee is a subgroup of the Rec Commission. The Pool Committee consist of: Mike Savenelli, Hal Chait, Chris Shortell, Kenny Michael and Michelle Bjorkman

8. Open Discussion (2/3 vote required for any item)

A request to add Pickleball to the discussion. **Motion:** was made by Jason to add Pickleball to the open discussion. Seconded and passed

Chick Maynard asked Mike if a basketball court could be converted to Pickleball court., Pickleball court at Doolittle Park.

Kenny does keep in touch with Bob Danielson on Pickleball. He said the group is very pleased with having the lines sprayed, buying new nets, and having them in a lock container.

Directors Report: Ken Michaels

COVID-19 update:

We are still in CT Phase 2 which leaves us at a 25-person capacity limit per room. We are at a 14 per person for health fitness program due to the 12ft spacing for social distancing. Participants are not required to wear a mask during class.

Summer camps went very well with the second session increasing the attendance. Families were thankful that we ran our program. Current fall adaptations for leagues, volleyball switching to clinic, youth basketball modifications, adult winter sport modifications.

We had a successful summer concert series in front of the Park & Rec.

Middle School dances can't run dances – waiting to see if they can run in 2021.

Baseball, Softball, Soccer were able to play games and lacrosse did skills and drills.

We did cancel Adult Softball league for spring/summer. We sent guidelines out and managers thought it was too difficult to ensure everyone abided by the guidelines.

Office hours on a fluid schedule based on weekly program schedule and department usage. If facility is not being used on Saturday night or Sunday, the building will close early on those days.

Tropical storm resulted in minimal park damage. Fence at the Dog Park and fencing at Kendrick Park had minor damage. The lights at Prageman Park. Public Works has setup a purchase order for repairs.

Kenny is working with the Risk Manager, PW, and Playground surfacing to border and surface Wallace Park. Hoping to have it completed this Fall, worse case Spring 2021. This is part of Kenny's 3-year plan on surfacing Wallace, Lufbury, Marcus Cooke, and Pire Park.

Pat Wall field and Harrison Baseball Field will be closed to drill seed both fields in the next few weeks. Discussions have begun with Lyman Hall Vo-Ag department on the Pat Wall field to have the students do the work as they can not g on field trips as hands on experience.

Currently taking registrations for Fall classes. We changed our process to put everyone on a waitlist to minimize refunds when classes are cancelled due to low enrollment.

Next Commission Meeting – Wednesday, October 14, 2020 @ 8:00 AM

Meeting Adjourned at: 10:21 a.m. by Mike Savenelli seconded by Jason Michael

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Barillaro, Sr Clerk
Wallingford Parks and Recreation