

**Wallingford Parks & Recreation Department  
Parks & Recreation Commission  
Minutes for Wednesday, November 18, 2020  
8:00 a.m. at Parks and Recreation Department**

**Commissioners in Attendance:**

Don Crouch, Dave Gelo, Steve Rossacci, and Mike Savenelli Sr

**Recreation Commission Members Absent:** Jason Michael

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

**Special Guests:** Sean Doherty, YMCA Executive Director

**Opening Remarks:** Chairperson Dave Gelo called the meeting to order @ 8:05 a.m.

**Minutes:**

A motion made by Mike Savenelli Sr. and seconded by Steve Rossacci to approved minutes from the October meeting.

**Agenda Items:**

**1. Ulbrich Boys/Girls Club – YMCA / Use of Parks & Building**

A Special Guest, Sean Doherty, spoke about the potential use charge to the YMCA and the impact that would have on his organization. He and Carlos Collazo, from Ulbrich Boys & Girls Club, met with Kenny and Michelle a couple of weeks ago and was appreciative of the time they took to explain the park fees. The discussion centered around YMCA Summer Camp and Ulbrich Boys & Girls Christmas Basketball Tournament.

Kenny said he is not looking to charge the full rate, but rather a subset. He is potentially looking at creating a fee that would be in place for a few years and then reassess the fee. Kenny is looking to have the information to Sean by the end of the year.

Sean said the YMCA uses Doolittle Park for Easter Egg-stravaganza, Healthy Kids Day, and Summer Camp. They also use Harrison Park for tennis lessons.

As with any nonprofit they have been impacted by COVID this year. The numbers for 2020 summer camp was approximately 180 kids a week. This is down from the non-COVID years of 250-300 kids per week.

Sean said he understands if there needs to be a charge because of expenses that need to be paid because they are using the facility (i.e. custodial). Sean has always felt a connection to help each other out, like they did with the 2013 blizzard impacted the Park & Rec. Even now with the BOE not allowing basketball practice in the schools, maybe we can help.

**2. Wallace Park - Legacy Garden – Presentation Rescheduled**

The stones are completed and need to be installed. Once the stones are installed the ceremony date will be set. Kenny asked the Park & Rec PT Maintainers to purchase mulch and spread some around.

Two more stones could be placed in the circle area. Additional stones will be placed by the sea grass area. Utilizing that area will take more work to clear an area.

### **3. Community Lake – Shoreline Clearing**

Project specifications have been given to Purchasing which have been sent out to vendors through the Purchasing Portal.

### **4. P&R By-Laws Draft - Don Crouch Review**

The By-Laws were reviewed and there were some minor changes. Don will make the changes and resend to everyone. The By-Laws will be reviewed at the December meeting.

### **5. Community Pool Update - Mike Savenelli**

Kenny and Mike met with Mayor to find out what the next steps are for the pool. The Mayor said the budget is very tight and it does not look promising to move forward with the pool. Kenny told the Mayor he will evaluate what it would cost to reopen the pool. The Mayor thought that was a good idea.

Kenny met with the mechanical company to see what repairs might be needed. The mechanical company said each year he hopes everything works and there are no major issues due to the age of the equipment. In 2019, we only had two of the three pumps working so the third one will need to be repaired. The chemical shower isn't working, this is a State and OSCHA requirement so this will need to be repaired. This company will provide Kenny with a detailed list and cost.

In addition, the concrete will need to be evaluated and those costs will also need to be incorporated.

There is no pool money in the Fiscal 2020-2021 budget so all this work will need to wait until July 2021. Kenny will also need to look at the timeframe for opening and closing the pool.

### **6. Open Discussion (2/3 vote required for any item)**

#### **Directors Report: Ken Michaels**

##### **Programming Updates:**

- Summer programs ran at a 40% success rate.
- Fall programs are wrapping up at a 58% success rate.
- The winter programs will be reduced due to the increase COVID numbers in the town/state. The adult basketball league is cancelled. Weber/Gannon basketball is still scheduled to run with modified schedules to reduce the foot traffic. Currently based on the CT Re-Open CT Plan, the state is recommending we require mask wearing among players.

##### **Parks & Facilities:**

- All parks have been winterized and restrooms are closed for the winter season.
- Port-o-lets have been removed from most of the parks per the bid schedule.
- Sod was installed at Pragemann Park to complete the multi-purpose field project. The drill seeding project at Pat Wall in which we partnered with LH Vo-Ag is growing in nicely. Harrison was drill seeded by PW and is filling in nicely as well.
- Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, met with Michelle Bjorkman, Jason, Dave and the Copas' at Community Gardens to review the end of the year clean up. The Community Gardens are in great shape. Gary and Cathy have done a tremendous job revitalizing the gardens and working with participants in keeping their plots neat and orderly.
- In the next week or two, we will be installing a new vision board at the Doolittle Playscape. This board was the brain child of Lynn LaValley who is a licensed speech pathologist in

town. In meeting with Steve Civitelli, the Health Director, we were able to come up with this sign which will help non-verbal children who go to the playscape the ability to communicate with peers.

- Our maintainers have recently painted the exterior buildings at Doolittle and Pragemann Park due to graffiti on the buildings.
- All baseball fields have been tilled, edged and clayed thanks to Steve Palermo and his crews at Public Works. Done ahead and no need to rush in the spring. I have recently done a field audit and we will do bases, home plate and pitching rubber replacements for fields in need prior to the 2021 Spring season.
- Current push by town resident Ben Martin for the Brother's Parking lot to be turned into a park instead of parking lot. Mr. Martin has yet to have this discussion with myself or Parks & Recreation department. This has been ongoing in the Town Council meetings. I do not think the property is a good fit for a park especially at the intersection and various parks with close walking proximity to the Brothers location.
- Currently working on field light audit for bulb replacement before 2021 Spring Sports.
- Bid for Doolittle Tennis Courts should be out in the next week or so, coming out of the engineering department.

**Next Commission Meeting – Wednesday, December 9, 2020 @ 8:00 AM**

**Meeting Adjourned at:** 9:50 a.m. by Dave Gelo - seconded by Steve Rossacci

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Barillaro, Sr Clerk  
Wallingford Parks and Recreation