

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
September 24, 2018, 5:30-6:30 pm
Town Hall, Room 217

Members in attendance: Chris Bennett, John Minze, Sarah Needham, Robin Collins, Shawna Kitzman, Kim Evans

Members absent: Greg Shimmer, Brian Clifford, Terry Schmitt

Town Staff in attendance: Helen Rubino-Turco

1. Rockledge Grille
 - a. The restaurant is open and running fairly well. They are starting to consider how to better streamline coordination efforts with the golf community. Rich Crowe (golf pro) and the Rockledge Grille owners will discuss collaborative strategies for next year.
2. Cornerstone
 - a. Received new exercise equipment valued at \$300k. TechnoGym and Health Fitness arranged for the equipment in exchange for the facility to be used as a showcase for the equipment manufacturers – assuming that it is convenient for the Cornerstone staff. Cornerstone budget paid for delivery, installation and electrical upgrades.
3. Summer Aquatics Program
 - a. The Leisure Services department will revisit changes to swim team program, but due to the positive impacts to increased pool time for so many families, there is not a strong likelihood that the change will be rolled back. The Cornerstone swim team had about 60 participants. Kim Evans commented that her family participated in the Swim Team at Cornerstone this year and they had a very positive experience.
4. Lime Bike
 - a. The Leisure Services department is looking into a possible pilot program with Lime Bike. Concerns were raised about some perceived negative experiences in Hartford's pilot, and Helen will review multiple options before making a recommendation to the Town.
5. Dog Park
 - a. A new site is under consideration at Chelton/Grassmere along Trout Brook. Letters are being sent to area neighbors; Dog Park Coalition is going door-to-door to let them know that the area is under consideration. Improvements would be paid for by the Coalition.
6. Beachland Playground Equipment
 - a. Equipment from M.E. O'Brien is being ordered because it is the same equipment that is installed at both Fern Park and Charter Oak Elementary. By having the same equipment in multiple locations, there will be benefits from parts interchangeability. This company is also an approved vendor.
 - b. Community Development Block Grants will be used for this purchase, as this site is in a low-to-moderate income area.
 - c. There will be 2 playscapes – one for younger kids and another for older ones
7. Feast on the Farm
 - a. Scheduled for this coming Friday, tickets still available
 - b. CT Bar Association's Environmental Law Section recently awarded Westmoor Park with the Clyde O. Fisher Award for environmental education.
 - c. Funds from the Feast will possibly be used for a future outdoor classroom
8. Youth League Sponsorship Signage in Public Parks

- a. The Board reviewed a proposal. There will be no changes proposed for school fields, only parks.
9. Wolcott Park Update
- a. Received \$750k in funding from State Bonding Commission- which will be combined with an additional \$500k in municipal capital funding.
 - b. Peter Miniutti's design plan will be used as the park plan to implement improvements.
 - c. Improvements (funded by Town and State Bond Commission funds) will go towards:
 - i. Post Tension concrete replacements for tennis and basketball courts
 - ii. Pickleball courts (6 dedicated courts will replace 2 of the tennis courts)
 - iii. New lighting infrastructure
 - iv. Pathway improvements
 - v. Replace restroom building
 - vi. Evaluate spray pads and playscapes
 - vii. Parking lots reconfigured and repaired
 - viii. Repair/replace elevated pathway
10. Vanderbilt Park
- a. Pocket park north of Farmington Ave near Whiting Lane intersection
 - b. Eversource owns land adjacent to park; will cut down trees to protect substation, but have been working with community to address concerns; have invested in a replanting effort. There is now some interest from the neighbors in creating a "Friends of Vanderbilt" organization.
11. Celebrate West Hartford
- a. Next year's dates are moving due to holiday schedules – new date is June 1st and 2nd.
12. Next Meeting—November 19th at Town Hall
Minutes submitted by Chris Bennett