



September 19, 2022

TO: Parks & Recreation Advisory Board  
FROM: Shawna Kitman, Chairperson  
SUBJECT: Meeting Notes - Monday, September 19, 2022

The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board met on **Monday, September 19, 2022** at 5:30 p.m. at the Elmwood Community Center.

The following items will be discussed:

### **AGENDA**

1. Roll Call  
Present: Greg Shimer, Kate Eikel, Anna Park, Shawna Kitman, Robin Collins  
Absent: Gus Melita, Tanja Low, Steve Kutscher, Steve Garneau  
Staff: Marc Blanchard
2. Adoption of May 16, 2022 meeting minutes (since June meeting was cancelled)
3. Old Business:
  - Mayflower Property Update
    - Robin and Anna provided updates on the planning committee progress: library, teen center, community center, senior center are givens. All other reasonable uses are on the table.
    - Traffic study is subsequent, but the community has voiced concern about traffic, access, and circulation
    - Seniors have been particularly vocal about their hopes and needs
    - Many of the spaces will be flexibly designed
    - Tecton Architects are working in two capacities, determining whether to save/reuse the building, or tear down and rebuild. There are financial grants/incentives to build greener infrastructure.
    - Tecton is facilitating public engagement with various groups
    - Upcoming public meeting on October 6, 7-8pm (virtual) and October 26 5-8pm (ECC); more information posted regularly on the WHPL or [NewECC@westhartfordct.gov](mailto:NewECC@westhartfordct.gov)
    - Greg asked if ARPA funds might be used for broadband internet at the facilities. A Town facilities representative who is quite knowledgeable.
  - Capital Improvements Update
    - Eisenhower Pool remained closed throughout the summer. The RFP for construction closes on September 28. Town staff Mike Schultz and Todd Petrowski have been heavily involved in development of the RFP, lending their expertise. The target opening is summer 2023; pending weather and construction material/labor availability.
    - Wolcott Phase II includes lower facilities including lighting, parking lot, and restroom building. West Hartford Youth Baseball (WHYB) is financing and managing the contractor to replace baseball field lights. They do not need to go through the town bidding process. Current lights use old technology and have been installed for decades. Parking lot redesign underway.

- The Miracle League will be renovating their field, likely within the year. They have their own funding, and the Town doesn't own the property.
- Discussion of All Sports Councils. There are about 20 leagues that play in town, using town facilities. Each league has their own leadership, bylaws, mission, and processes. Complaints should be directed first to League leadership.
- Design of new facilities are underway, including:
  - Spice Bush bridge repair
  - UConn fields and Westmoor Park bridges
  - Renovation of Kennedy Park bathhouse along with new playscapes
  - Glover Field playscape

#### 4. New Business

- Summer Recap
  - Westmoor Park programs remain very popular. Enrollment maxed out within about 6 weeks of opening.
  - Enrollment increased at the Veterans Memorial program Due to strong numbers at Adventure Camp and IPH Hockey camps.
  - Funtastic camp (in townwide parks) remained relatively stable, with a modest difference in the hours to provide caregivers with an extended day.
  - Townwide rec programs slightly decreased but remain strong.
  - Pool attendance, swim lessons, and revenue was great. Daily admissions increased, likely due to solid weeks of good weather.
  - HealthFitness is in year 2 of managing the Town's lifeguards. It's been a beneficial partnership. Due to statewide lifeguard shortage, prospective lifeguards don't need to have certification in advance. The Town will train and cover/maintain the expense of certification to incentive talent. The Town follows Red Cross staffing standards, whereas they may have previously 'overstaffed' on occasion to meet changing demands. COVID essentially depleted the Town's lifeguard talent pool.
- Feast on the Farm – September 30
  - Enrollment is about 140 out of about 200 tickets. Tickets are on sale on RecDesk.

#### 5. Board Positions

- Shawna reviewed the board members whose second terms end in December 2022, including herself, Greg Shimer, and Robin Collins. Two board members (Kate Eikel and Tanja Low) are eligible for second term confirmation. She put out a call to board members to invite their networks to apply for the position through the Town Clerk Essie Labrot, with a letter of interest, resume, and indication of political party.

#### 6. Public Comment - none

Next meeting – November 21, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.; location Elmwood Community Center – suggested change to Monday, November 14. Kate has a conflict. Robin, Greg, Shawna, and Anna approve the change.

CC: Rick Ledwith, Town Manager  
 Helen Rubino-Turco, Director, Leisure Services & Social Services  
 Essie S. Labrot, Town Clerk  
 Marc Blanchard, Leisure Services Manager

"ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY WHO NEEDS SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN A MEETING OR PUBLIC HEARING SHOULD CONTACT SUZANNE OSLANDER, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, 860-561-7580 SEVEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING OR PUBLIC HEARING."