MINUTES

WATERTOWN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, June 6, 2024
TIME: 7:00 PM
LOCATION: Watertown Municipal Center – Recreation Department
61 Echo Lake Road, Watertown, Ct.

I. Call to Order
Chairman William Donston called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call
PRESENT: William Donston, Chairman
Ken LaRosa, V. Chairman
Pat Rinaldi, Secretary
Karim Belica
Margaret Germain
Joseph McGrail
Alan Mickel

ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael Ganem – Director of Parks & Recreation

III. Public Participation
Timothy Malootian, WHS Tennis Coach, Mr. Malootian provided the commission with feedback about the condition of the tennis courts at Crestbrook Golf Course.

William Donston provided historical context about Mr. Staver and the endowments. He provided details about the collaboration with the BOE about athletic facilities, including the former tennis courts at WHS.
The commissioners reviewed an aerial view of the tennis courts and discussed the possibility of alternative locations and possible expansion. The commission further discussed the need for stand-alone pickleball courts.

Michael Ganem presented the commission with information about and rough estimates for post-tension concrete courts to replace the 4 courts that are currently there. A map of Crestbrook Park was reviewed. Michael Ganem shared his opinions about the next steps required to fast-track the replacement of the tennis courts at Crestbrook Park. He will share this information with the Town Manager and the Town Council.

IV. Approval of Minutes
A. May 2, 2024, Regular Meeting

*MOTION: Ken LaRosa seconded by Margaret Germain to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for May 2, 2024.*

Aye: 6 Donston, LaRosa, Rinaldi, Germain, McGrail, Mickel
Nay: 0
Abstain: 1 Belica

Motion passes

V. Correspondence
- Letter dated 5-17-24 from Ally Stoto, WHS Assistant Tennis Coach.
- Assistant Director, Carrie Godfrey highlighting activities, programs, special events, and all things recreation as read into the record.

VI. Reports
A. Chairman
Chairman William Donston reported:
- Recent special events: Memorial Day Ceremony and Touch a Truck.
- The memorial sign for Avery Lamphire has been installed at Veteran’s Park as well as the direction sign at Buena Vista.
- Sylvan Lake Park and Crestbrook Pool are currently being prepared to open for summer swimming.
- Updated the commission about pending litigation.
- Provided an overview of special revenue accounts.

B. Director
Michael Ganem reported:
- Meeting with DEEP about potential future access via Watertown to the CT State Forest for timber harvesting.
- Will be presenting a status report to the Town Council at the meeting of 6-17-2024.
- Gave an overview of program registrations and special events.

C. Sub-Committees
   Crestbrook Park:
   - The stairs on Hole #2 are complete.
   - Landscaping is nearly completed around the Pro Shop and entrance sign.
   - Additional guardrail will be installed and repaired
   - Balusters will be installed on both ends of the cart path leading from the parking lot to the Pro Shop.

   Parks:
   - Doing our best to well maintain the athletic fields and several facilities including the Town Hall and the Police Department.
   - Signs have been installed at Veterans.

   Social Services:
   - Demand for services remain steady

VII. Old Business – none.

VIII. New Business
   A. Review and Consideration of Submitted Applications for 20243. – none.
   B. Parks and Facilities – Discussed under the Director’s Report and Public Comments.
   C. Gifts and Donations – none.
   D. Policies and Procedures – All forms are under review by staff.

IX. Adjournment

   MOTION: Josph McGrail seconded by Ken LaRosa to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:12 p.m.

   Motion Approved

   Respectfully submitted,

   William Donston, Chairman
   Watertown Parks and Recreation Commission

   Approved: ___________________________

   Susan King, Clerk