Watertown Parks & Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Agenda

Date: Thursday, June 06, 2024
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Town Hall - Parks & Recreation Conference Room
61 Echo Lake Road, Watertown, CT 06795

Meeting is In-Person and also available via Zoom. A link will be posted on meeting day. Please refer to www.watertownct.org under Calendar of Meetings

I. Call Meeting to Order:

II. Roll Call:

III. Public Participation:

IV. Approval of Minutes:
A. Thursday, May 02, 2024

V. Correspondence:

VI. Reports:
A. Chairman
B. Director
C. Sub-Committees

VII. Old Business:

VIII. New Business:
A. Review and Consideration of Submitted Applications for 2024
B. Parks and Facilities
C. Gifts and Donations
D. Policies and Procedures

IX. Adjournment

Commissioners: Unable to attend? Contact P&R Department at 860-945-5246 by 4:30 PM
MINUTES

WATERTOWN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, May 2, 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 7:03 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: Herm Desena, Council Liaison, Michael Ganem – Director of Parks & Recreation

III. Public Participation – none.

IV. Approval of Minutes
A. April 4, 2024, Regular Meeting

MOTION: Al Mickel seconded by Pat Rinaldi to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for April 4, 2024.

Abstain: William Donston
Motion passed.

V. Correspondence
- The commission received a Thank You note from the Exchange Club for our donation and a letter was received from Jackie Post
- A report from Assistant Director, Carrie Godfrey highlighting activities, programs, and special events was read into the record.

VI. Reports
A. Chairman
Chairman William Donston reported:
- Flags will be installed soon and before the Memorial Day parade.
- No Farmers Market this year, while we consider alternative locations.
- Thanked the department for its thorough overview of the department that was presented at the public hearing.

B. Director
Michael Ganem reported:
- Presented a PowerPoint presentation on behalf of the department regarding the recent public hearing.
- Update on the “carry out what you carry in” policy. Signs are being installed at strategic locations.
- Staff is very busy with typical springtime preparations.
- Angel’s Playground is still in the works, finding replacement features has proven a challenge.
- We will begin preparing Sylvan for the summer season. This will require a significant lift from both the Park’s crew and the Department of Public Works. The lake will have to be drained a couple of feet as part of the process to open.

C. Sub-Committees
Ken LaRosa reported:
- Discussion about the changes at the course that were announced.
- The change of the “9’s” has been well received.
- The league calendar is robust.

VII. Old Business
A. None.

VIII. New Business
A. Review and Consideration of Submitted Applications for 2024. – no applications this evening.
Parks and facilities:
  o There will be some landscape improvements at Crestbrook Park to include the area abutting the Pro Shop. May 23, Community Service Day with Taft students. 30 students will be divided into 3 groups of 10. Work is planned at the Dog Park, and Steele Brook Greenway, FASC and Crestbrook Park.

Gifts and Donations:
  o Requests to accept gifts and donations to be installed or planted at the parks require the review and approval of the Parks and Recreation Commission. The commission would like the director to provide alternatives to the post family including that a plaque be installed on one of the existing benches at Crestbrook Park Golf course.

Policies and Procedures:
  o The department is going to take a deep dive into the various applications and forms that are used in the office to conduct its business. The goal will include ensuring consistency.

IX. Adjournment

*MOTION: Al Mickel seconded by Ken
LaRosa to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:24 p.m.*

Motion Approved

Respectfully submitted,

William Donston, Chairman
Watertown Parks and Recreation Commission

Approved:

Susan King, Clerk
*Our Summer 2024 Activities guide is out. Registrations have been coming in since April – the community seems very excited and anxious for summer camp! Our most popular day camps are full with a waiting list. We will be working with the Board of Education again. They were approved for the enrichment grant.

*On Friday, May 3rd we had Friday Night Frenzy Cinco De Mayo Party for middle school aged kids. There was a Mexican food truck and games for the kids.
*Adult Open Basketball is still running every Tuesday for 18+ from 7-9pm. Every week we get a great turnout. Everyone comes to play!

*We had our first annual Touch A Truck on Saturday May 11th on a very beautiful day. Touch A Truck was held at John Trumbull School parking lot! We had food trucks, live music, and the Touch A Truck Kid-Zone where kids can jump, play and slide on open air inflatables and of course trucks – 32!! The community helped us “Fill the Truck” by bringing a canned good donation for the Watertown Food Bank.

*The Watertown Fall Festival Committee met on May 15th. Things seem to be in order for this September 14th event. We sent out vendor applications, set up some entertainment, etc.... Vendors started sending in their applications.

*Completed new summer staff interviews the first week of May.

*Spring Swim Lessons are still in progress. I received two compliments on how great the instructors were with the kids.

*All summer staff acceptance letters were mailed out on May 10th and we are preparing for our summer staff meeting in June.

*A few new classes started: Gym Time with Mr. M, Babysitting Course, Woman’s and Adult Self Defense, Pickleball Clinics, Mommy and Me Day, and Zumba. They all had great attendance.

*Our very successful Watertown Recreation Swim Team Spring and Conditioning Clinic continued through the month of May. We had just over 60 swimmers continued to develop their competitiveness and anticipation of next winter’s season.

*We have seasonal staff helping get the Crestbrook pool ready for the summer. They drained and cleaned it out. It was acid washed on May 25th. Then the boys will start painting end of May into June.

*Mark the date Saturday, June 1st for the Town Wide Tag Sale. Maps will be available for pick up early next week at Gayle’s Farm Shoppe, Adams Supermarket, Watertown Meat Center, Tony’s Seafood, LaBonne’s Market and the Parks & Recreation Department. We have 61 homes registered to participate so far.