

**TOWN OF MANCHESTER, CONNECTICUT
ADVISORY RECREATION & PARK COMMISSION
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2016
MINUTES**

Meeting began at 6:03 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman: Tom Tierney; Commissioners: Bob Kilpatrick, Bill Gochee, Bill Woolridge, Dennis Cumberbatch, Owen Carroll; Leisure, Families, and Recreation Director: Chris Silver

COMMENTS:

Commissioner Carroll requested clarification on a recent article in the news he read regarding the location of an athletic field house behind Manchester High School. Director Silver stated that the plan is just in the conceptual stage now, and no definitive location has been determined at this point.

MINUTES:

An error was noted in the October meeting minutes on the date for the upcoming Basketball Clinic sponsored by the Manchester Sports Hall of Fame. The correct date of the event is January 7, 2017 not December 7, 2016 as reported in the minutes. This error was noted and minutes were then accepted unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Director Silver and Commissioner Woolridge shared with the commission the flyer (attached) for the upcoming HOF Basketball Clinic referenced above.

RECREATION REPORT: See attached RECREATION REPORT

Director Silver reported on a number of events and initiatives, both recently completed and soon to occur. Silver also discussed with Commission members the current need for volunteers to serve on various Cruisin on Main committees.

PARKS REPORT: See attached PARK REPORT

Director Silver also spoke on plans, currently in the design phase, to connect Edgerton St. trails, Cheney Rail trails, and Center Springs Park trails. He also reported that the bid package for the construction of the new Broad St. entrance to Center Springs Park was anticipated to be completed by the end of January, 2017, and finally, that preparations were underway for the upcoming annual Manchester Road Race on Thanksgiving day.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

Meeting Adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bob Kilpatrick

Recreation Report

November 17

Parks and Recreation Commission

1. Thanksgiving Week Holiday Hours: Bennet Leisure Center – 11/24 & 11/25 Closed (not open Saturdays), Community Y Rec Center – 11/24 Closed, 11/25 & 11/26 Open, Eastside Neighborhood Resource Center – 11/24 Closed, 11/25 Open for Scheduled Program participants only, Mahoney Rec Center – 11/24 Closed, 11/25 Open 1 – 9pm, 11/26 Open 10am – 5pm, MHS Pools – 11/23 – 11/26 Closed, Nathan Hale Center – 11/24 Closed, 11/25 Open for Scheduled Program participants only, 11/26 Open, NWP Early Childhood Center – 11/24 & 11/25 Closed (not open Saturdays), YSB/Teen Center – 11/24 & 11/25 Closed (not open Saturdays)
2. Youth Basketball: There are limited openings in the Fundamentals of Basketball at 7:00pm (6-7 year olds), Boys or Girls Pee Wee (8-9 year olds) and Co-Ed Midget (10-12 year olds). Youth basketball will start in December and costs \$30.00 first child/\$20.00 second sibling/\$10.00 third sibling. Mandatory evaluation clinics have already started. Please note that we will still be accepting registrations even after the clinics, so don't miss out!
3. Bennet Family Fun Nights: Save the dates: November 18th Family Movie Night 'Nightmare before Christmas' and December 2nd DIY/Tie-Dye Night. Join us at the Bennet Leisure Center, 1151 Main Street for games, crafts, movies and more!
4. The Wizard's School of Magic: Learn magic tricks from Tom O'Brien, a full-time professional magician. All students will receive their own magic kits containing props necessary to perform tricks at home as well as a magic wand! This program will be offered for 6 – 10 year olds on Friday, December 2 from 4:00 – 5:00pm for \$15.00 residents/\$20.00 non-residents. Register today!
5. Kids Cupcake Decorating: Kids ages 5 - 10 will love this creative and messy class! Join Jessica from the Cupcake Caboose and learn how to make your very own holiday themed cupcakes. All delicious decorating supplies and cupcakes will be provided. Winter cupcake decorating will take place on Saturday, December 10 both from 10:00 – 11:00am at the Community Y Rec Center. Register today!
6. Youth Commission Mini Grant Applications: The Manchester Youth Commission is requesting proposals for Mini Grants of up to \$1,000.00 per application to Manchester community groups which are either led by, or intended to benefit, youth in Manchester. Qualifying candidates must plan to facilitate a project or program which fulfills one of three categories: Out of School Time/After School Initiatives, Service Learning Initiatives and Arts & Culture Initiatives. Grant money may not be used for religious instruction/materials, capital expenses, or donations to other organizations. Applications are available online at <http://www.townofmanchester.org/documents/PhilanthropyProgram2017.pdf> and must be received by the Manchester Youth Service Bureau, c/o MYC Mini Grant Program, 41 Center Street, PO Box 191, Manchester, CT 06045-0191 no later than 4:00pm on Friday, December 2, 2016. Letters of support and recommendation are also required. For additional information please contact Heather Wlochowski at the Manchester Youth Service Bureau Division at 860-647-5215, or heatherw@manchesterct.gov.
7. Lunchtime Meditation: Cultivate inner peace through a 45 minute guided meditation practice which includes a brief talk on how to work with the mind to improve daily life. No special clothing or experience necessary. Register today for this program on Fridays from 12:15 – 1:00pm in the Center Springs Activity Room.

Committee vacancies:

- Chairperson (Vacant SEPT16-PRESENT)
- Finance Chair (Vacant SEPT16-PRESENT)
- PR/Media Chair (Vacant JUL16-PRESENT)
 - Entertainment (Vacant-PRESENT)
 - Sponsorship Chair (Vacant NOV16-PRESENT)
 - Logistics (Vacant SEPT16-PRESENT)
 - Volunteer Coordinator Chair (Vacant AUG15-PRESENT)

19. Northwest Park – reservations are steady for the 2017 season. The pavilion continues to be a beautiful resource for our community.

Christopher J. Silver, Director
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Park Report -- November 2016

-Prepping for Manchester Road Race

Charter Oak

-Knot weed cut from streamside

-Bathroom -- painted, new roof, installing fixtures then moving to electrical

-Parking lot -- working on water and sewer

-Warming hut -- painted, installing new roof and windows

-Musical garden - Finalized MOU, looking to install by July 1, 2017

-East Coast Greenway paved from Carter to softball fields

-Nike site -- pickle ball court color coated and sealed, nets installed, continue clearing up at site, installed directional sign.

-Ball fields: slit seeded, overseeded all soccer and football and some baseball/softball. Fertilizing and aerating now. Most fields closing mid to late October (a few in November). Renovated 6 baseball/softball fields.

-West Side pool -- painting is completed.

-Park Master Plan: RFP completed, will present to BOD.

-Purnell parking lot plantings: Have planted nearly 1/2 of trees, adding topsoil and mulch. Will finish tree planting in Spring.

-Laura marsh parking lot area -- planting some shrubs possibly this Fall or early Spring.

-Broad Street entrance (former asian restaurant), Identifying trees with Kyle and Matt from Planning for RDA plan.

-Center Springs Park:

Tree clearing will continue especially creating the path to Edgerton Street.

Trail built on south side of pond from Edgerton Street to basketball court.

- Edgarton Street is currently in the design process which includes a crossing from the Center Springs (upper trail) over Edgarton connecting to a new west side sidewalk running north and south. A northern continuation will connect to the new entry from broad St., the Cheney Rail Trail and will also include a new crossing (connection) back to center springs park close to the corner of Edgarton and Lodge Dr. (Anticipated work and completion: Summer-Fall 2017)
- Currently in the process of acquiring proper permits and in the stage of design for Center Springs Pond Dredging project of fore bay. (Anticipated work and completion July/August 2017)
- Broad Street Entrance to Center Springs and the Cheney Rail Trail Wetlands permitting and bid package anticipated to be completed by the end of January. Award Contract in March construction in April 2017.