

**TOWN OF MANCHESTER, CONNECTICUT  
ADVISORY RECREATION & PARK COMMISSION  
THURSDAY APRIL 20, 2017  
MINUTES**

**Meeting began at 6:05 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Commissioners: Bob Kilpatrick, Bill Gochee, Bill Wooldridge, Dennis Cumberbatch; Leisure, Families, and Recreation Director: Chris Silver.

**Guest:** Kyle Shiel, Senior Town Planner

**COMMENTS:**

After introductions, Director Silver requested a suspension of the rules to allow Kyle Shiel to give Commission members an overview of the concept and purpose of a Parks Master Plan, and a review of the proposed RFP which the Commission may consider for further action. After Kyle's presentation and discussions regarding various questions posed by Commission members, *a motion was made and seconded that the Town appropriate the funds necessary to hire a consultant to produce the proposed Town of Manchester Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Motion carried unanimously.*

**MINUTES:**

The minutes for the March meeting were accepted unanimously.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Director Silver reported to Commission members on an "Our Parks, Take me to the Park" art exhibit currently on display at Lincoln Center.

**RECREATION REPORT:** See attached RECREATION REPORT

Director Silver answered questions of commission members on several of the programs listed in the report, including Summer Camp 2017 registration numbers, Daffodils in Center Springs Park, and a new Spruce St. Farmer's Market slated for Wednesday evenings.

**PARKS REPORT:** See attached PARK REPORT

Director Silver also reported that all ball fields and baseball/softball activities were underway, and that the ongoing Charter Oak renovation project was proceeding on schedule. In general discussions regarding the Parks Report, and questions regarding the types of fencing being considered along the paths in Charter Oak Park, it was determined

that split rail fencing similar to that already lining the state maintained portions of the East Coast Greenway be considered. It was further discussed that Director Silver inquire of the State as to whether this fencing along the Greenway is slated for any repairs or replacement as it is in bad repair in some areas.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

In response to a Commission member question, Director Silver reported that the old playground equipment from Charter Oak Park that was previously hoped to be reutilized at Globe Hollow cannot be used due to the conditions of the equipment and cost.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

In general discussions among Commission members regarding organized sports groups utilizing the existing Town facilities, it was determined that Director Silver should inquire of the appropriate officials the guidelines, costs, and potential use of the State-owned Cheney Tech complex fields.

**Meeting Adjourned at 6:50 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bob Kilpatrick

# Recreation Report

## April 20, 2017

### Recreation

**Summer Camp 2017:** Registration packets are now available at the following locations – Center Springs Main Office 39 Lodge Drive, Mahoney Recreation Center 110 Cedar Street, Community Y Recreation Center 78 N Main Street, Town Hall Customer Service 41 Center Street, or you can print one online at [recreation.townofmanchester.org](http://recreation.townofmanchester.org). Summer Camp will be available from June 26 – August 4, 2017 at Bowers, Mahoney, Martin and Robertson for youth ages 5 – 11 (age 5 only if Kindergarten has been completed), Iling for youth ages 11 – 13 and the Community Y for youth ages 13 – 15. For more information on camps please visit us at [recreation.townofmanchester.org](http://recreation.townofmanchester.org) and click on the Summer Camp Information link!

**Skyhawks Sports Camps:** Registration for Skyhawks Sports Camps is ongoing. Be sure to visit [www.skyhawks.com](http://www.skyhawks.com) to register for June and August Manchester Skyhawks Camps today!

**Program Registration:** Registration is open to residents and non-residents for programs from now until May! Registration can be taken over the phone by calling 860-647-3084, online by visiting [reconline.townofmanchester.org](http://reconline.townofmanchester.org), or in person at the following locations: Center Springs Main Office – 39 Lodge Drive, Community Y Rec Center – 78 N Main Street, or Customer Service at Town Hall – 41 Center Street. Please note that summer program registration will not start until Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> for residents and Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup> for non-residents. There will be a special separate registration for summer swim lessons on Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. More information coming soon!

**Daffodils in Center Springs Park:** If you have an opportunity to visit Center Springs Park, stop by to see the beautiful daffodils in bloom. If you have an opportunity to visit, stop by soon, they add glorious color to the Park.

**Jukido:** A co-ed self-defense course incorporating Judo, Aikido and Karate. The Recreation Division offers Jukido for youth ages 6 – 14 as well as those 15 years of age and older! New session starting on April 7th at the Community Y Recreation Center, so be sure to register today!

**FULL Start Smart Baseball:** Parents work together with their children (3-5 years) in a supportive environment to learn the basics of sports. Saturdays 10 – 11am/11am – 12pm from April 8 – May 13 at the Community Y Recreation Center.

**Life Guard Training:** certification course at the Manchester High School from 7:30 – 9:30pm on Tuesdays from March 7 – May 30. **Registration Closed (10 out of 12 registered)**

**FULL Water Safety Instructor (WSI):** certification course at the Manchester High School from 7:30 – 9:30pm on Thursdays from March 9 – June 1.

**D-I-Y Tie Dye Night:** Bring the whole family for a family Do-It-Yourself Craft/Tie-Dye night. (BYOT). The program will be held at Bennet Leisure Center, on Friday, April 28, 2017 from 06:00 to 8:30pm. All ages are welcome.

**Center Springs Activity Room:** Register now for current and upcoming sessions of Vinyasa Flow Yoga, Team Fit, Walk Live, Meditation for Beginners and Team Active! All of these great classes take place in the Center Springs Activity Room at 39 Lodge Drive.

**Adult Fitness at the Community Y:** New sessions of Yoga for Active Lifestyles, Tapercize, Jukido, Pilates, Total Body Plus and Strength for Life started at the Community Y Recreation Center, so be sure to register today!

**Pickleball:** There's less ground to cover in this game than other racket sports which makes it easier for players of all ages. Pickleball is available to people ages 30+ and it is held on Mondays and Thursdays at Nathan Hale from 6:00 – 8:00pm. Visit [reconline.townofmanchester.org](http://reconline.townofmanchester.org), or call 860-647-3084, to register!

**Aquatic Fitness:** The Recreation Division is offering wonderful aquatic fitness classes this winter/spring such as Aqua Arthritis, Swim for Fitness, Total Aqua, Water Walking, Hydro Fit and Aqua Circuit. New session of Aqua Arthritis, Water Walking and Hydro Fitness are starting in the next couple of weeks, so be sure to register soon! Visit [reconline.townofmanchester.org](http://reconline.townofmanchester.org) for more detailed information.

**Adult Lap Swim:** Swimming is one of the best overall body workouts. Build cardio and tone at the same time with our Adult Lap Swim program. Dedicated lap swim time is available early mornings and evenings Monday – Friday at the MHS Main Pool. New session will begin this Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup>!

*Indoor Tennis –filled up in January! The April sessions for 4 – 7 year olds and 8 – 12 year olds are full with waiting lists as well as the May sessions. 40 children enrolled in Indoor Tennis and 12 on a waiting list.*

*Start Smart Baseball - now FULL – 30 children registered*

*We have reached out to last year's Summer Adult Softball teams to see who will be returning for the upcoming season which will start at the end of April. We have gotten 63 returning team responses plus 6 new team interests such as a new Manchester Fire Department team! (includes Men's and Co-ed).*

## Office of Neighborhoods and Families

**Rain Barrels:** Rain barrels are wonderful and do not need to be expensive, if you use your imagination. Come to see some examples of the different ways to capture this resource to save time and money! Join us at Eastside Neighborhood Resource Center, 153 Spruce Street, Wednesday, April 19, from 6:00-8:00pm

**Garden Birds:** Garden birds and feeders – how to invite and entertain your feathered friends in the garden for dinner and offer them a place to hang out! Join us at the Eastside Neighborhood Resource Center, 153 Spruce Street, Wednesday, April 20, from 6:00-8:00pm. Fee: \$15/\$20(NR). For more information call 860-647-3089.

**Petals, Pods & Peas Paint Night:** Petals, pods and peas paint night in the garden. Take some time out from your hectic schedule and spend some creative time with friends and maybe meet a few more. Always fun! Join us at the Eastside Neighborhood Resource Center, 153 Spruce Street, Wednesday, April 27, from 6:00-8:00pm. Fee: \$15/\$20(NR). For more information call 860-647-3089.

**Paint Night in the Garden:** Daisies, dahlias and dragonflies – just a few of my favorite things – paint night in the garden. Take some time out from your hectic schedule and spend some creative time with friends and maybe meet a few more. Join us at the Eastside Neighborhood Resource Center, 153 Spruce Street, Wednesday, May 4, from 6:00-8:00pm. Fee: \$15/\$20(NR). For more information call 860-647-3089.

## **Youth Service Bureau**

**Middle School Social:** Enjoy snacks, play large group games and participate in age appropriate group discussions around topics of interest to them from social media safety and cyber bullying to relationships with their peers and their parents. This social meets at the Youth Service Bureau, 63 Linden Street, for grades 6-8, April 28 from 03:00 to 5:30pm.

**Family Paint Night:** Join local artist Bri Dill of Art Lab for Family Paint Nights, a unique and exciting way for families to connect, at the Youth Service Bureau! Family Paint Nights occur monthly and include a step by step painting class for families with youth ages 8 and up. Create your own original work of art. No artistic experience required. Call Kellie Sheridan at 860-647-5262 for more information!

**Drop In Teen Center:** Socialize in a structured, safe, supervised environment. Students ages 12 – 18 can play pool, ping pong, foosball, board games, or video games, or they can get help with homework and enjoy some of the many more structured activities with the Teen Center staff. Every Wednesday there is a Group Discussion starting at 2:30pm. Discussion topics range from future goals and education to teen violence and bullying, to employment and whatever other topics the students choose to discuss. No registration is required, so join us anytime Monday – Friday from 2:30 – 5:30pm at the Youth Service Bureau Teen Center, 63 Linden Street.

**Half Day Special Events:** The Youth Service Bureau offers special events for elementary and middle school students on scheduled early release days. Call Kellie Sheridan at 860-647-5262 for more information!

**PFLAG:** Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians and Gays is committed to advancing equality and full societal affirmation of LGBTQ people through its threefold mission of support, education and advocacy. Join us at the Youth Service Bureau, 63 Linden Street, the first Tuesday of every month. These open meetings are for youth ages 15 – 18 and their parents or guardians.

***Youth Programs and Early Childhood Programs are going well! (Partners in Play, Mommy & Me Playgroup, Cradle to Crayons, Fathers Nurturing Teens, Young Women's Circle, Journey Build a Book, etc)***

## Park Report – April 2017

-All ball fields are open.

Charter Oak - timeline handout, meeting Thursday with Chris and Jeff for review

-Parking lot – Jeff (May 1)

-Warming hut – Jim (windows and doors)

-Musical garden – Delivery in building 2 (coordinating – met with Rotary they are purchasing irrigation as well with contribution from irrigation company)

-Playground delivered – building 3 (coordinating)

-Highway built wall, will be building wall around flag maybe next week

-Plants are selected, finalizing purchasing and delivery info.

-Purnell - woodchipped and planted in the next few weeks to finalize. Topsoil and seed 21 Oak.

-Nike site – pickle ball court area (guard rail, kiosk, picnic tables, gate chains, nets are up).  
Stairs installing to ball field next couple of weeks.

-Center Springs Park:

Jeff has plans for Edgerton Street.

Broad Street – some done in house for Fall, meeting with Jeff this morning to discuss more details.

-Ball fields: baseball/softball/soccer – all open, were 2 weeks behind, have pretty much caught up.

-NAF – looking to repurpose CO guardrail and install at NAF side property. Trees cut, will topsoil and seed.

-Union Park – removed dead/unsafe trees that abut neighbors house (Mrs. Fregin). Will be planting trees/shrubs for border in the next couple of weeks.

Brush cutting more along banks of pond.

Met with Howroyd family – potential fitness trail project.

-Drainage fix at Case Mountain dam, will be finalizing stone walk this spring.