

**TOWN OF MANCHESTER, CONNECTICUT  
ADVISORY RECREATION & PARK COMMISSION  
THURSDAY JANUARY 18, 2018  
MINUTES**

**Meeting began at 6:02 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Commissioners: Tom Tierney, Bob Kilpatrick, Bill Wooldridge, Owen Carroll; Recreation Director: Scott Garman.

**COMMENTS:**

There was a suspension of the rules to allow guests Chuck & Chickey Barrera to present their proposal to the Commission that the Town of Manchester name the swimming pool adjacent to the West Side Recreation Center after Marcy McDonald. After their presentation and review of their attached proposal, a motion was made and seconded that the Advisory Recreation & Park Commission recommends to the Town of Manchester BOD that the pool adjacent to the West Side Recreation Center be named Marcy McDonald Pool. The motion passed unanimously.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes for the November meeting were accepted unanimously.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** An email was received by all on 12/31/17 from Commissioner Kissman-Huyler submitting her resignation from the Commission.

**RECREATION REPORT:** See attached RECREATION REPORT

**PARKS REPORT:** See attached PARK REPORT

**OLD BUSINESS:** Commissioner Wooldridge reported positive feedback on the Manchester Sports HOF clinic that was conducted on 1/13/18.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Recommendation to name town pool noted above, along with discussion on identifying and inviting new members to serve on the Commission due to two (2) current vacancies.

**Meeting Adjourned at 6:30 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bob Kilpatrick

# Recreation Report

## January 2018

### Membership & Registration

**Membership:** The new membership year began September 1<sup>st</sup> and with it came our exciting new card system! Now youth, adults and seniors of Manchester can choose between a wallet sized card, or key chain sized cards, which will be renewed year to year instead of printing new cards every year. Membership cards can be obtained at the Center Springs Main Office, Community Y Rec Center and Customer Service at Town Hall. Senior cards can also be purchased at the Senior Center. Please note that youth cards can no longer be processed at the libraries. Proof of residency is required each year when obtaining your card to verify current resident status. Membership cards are valid at all of our rec centers, indoor and outdoor pools, as well as the Fitness Center at the Community Y Rec Center. Come visit us today!

**Program Registration:** Please note that the Winter/Spring program (January – May) registration is ongoing for both residents and non-residents! Registration can be done online, in person, or over the phone. Payment, when applicable, is due at the time of registration; online and phone registration can be processed using Visa or MasterCard. Our full winter/spring program brochure is available online at [recreation.townofmanchester.org](http://recreation.townofmanchester.org) by clicking the Brochures link!

### Aquatics

**Now Hiring – Water Safety Instructors:** Looking for Water Safety Instructors to teach swimming lessons to youth 6 months – 12 years of age. Hours are flexible including nights and weekends. Pay begins at \$12.50/hr. Visit [recreation.townofmanchester.org](http://recreation.townofmanchester.org) and click on General Information for a job description and application!

**Aqua Fitness:** Did you know that there are multiple different adult aquatic fitness classes taking place at the Manchester High School indoor pools? Register today for classes like Aqua Circuit, Total Aqua, Swim for Fitness and Aqua Arthritis. No matter your skill level or availability, you're bound to find the right class for you!

**Swim Lessons:** Register now for Infant, Toddler, Preschool and Level 1 – 6 swimming lessons. Some lessons have already filled, so be sure to register soon! Please note that our youth swim lessons are for Manchester residents only.

**Aqua Egg Hunt:** Join us for our Aqua Egg Hunt at MHS on Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup> where children ages 2 – 8 will collect floating and sinking eggs and enjoy a visit from the Bunny! Bring a bucket to collect eggs and then turn them into the Bunny's helper for a prize. Swim attire is required. Children 4 years and under must be accompanied by a parent in the water. Children who are not potty trained must wear a swim diaper. Pre-registration is required. Bring your camera! There is a \$3.00 fee and this program is for Manchester residents only. Please note that spots are filling up quickly, so be sure to register soon!

**Life Guard Training:** Looking for a great summer job? Through video, group discussion and hands-on practice, learn patron rescue and surveillance skills, first Aid and CPR/AED. Successful candidates will receive a 2 year CPR/AED certification and a 2 year Lifeguard certification. Prerequisites: must be at least 15 years of age and pass certain swimming requirements. Attendance at each class is mandatory. Register now for this program that will be held on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 – 9:30 at the MHS Main Pool.

**Water Safety Instructor:** This American Red Cross certification program is offered to interested individuals 16 years of age and older to become certified to teach swimming lessons. Register now for this program that will be held on Thursday evenings from 7:30 – 9:30pm at the MHS Main Pool.

### Adult Programming

**Pickleball:** Register now for Pickleball which takes places at the Nathan Hale Activity Center, 160 Spruce Street. Pickleball is on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6:00 – 8:00pm. Register today by visiting [reconline.townofmanchester.org](http://reconline.townofmanchester.org), or by calling 860-647-3084!

**Adult Fitness at Center Springs:** Register now for a great workout at the Center Springs Activity Room with classes such

as Team Active, Walk Live, Team Fit After Work, or our Adult Boot Camp!

**Adult Fitness at the Community Y Rec Center:** Looking for a sign to get going on that New Year's Resolution? Well here it is! Register now for great classes at the Community Y Rec Center such as Tapercize, Yoga for Active Lifestyles, Strength for Life, Total Body Plus, or Barre!

*See Aquatics above for Adult Aquatic Fitness information.*

### Youth Programming

**Indoor Soccer:** Recreation offers an indoor soccer program for ages 5 – 6 and 7 – 8. Your child will learn the basic skills of soccer such as dribbling, trapping, defense shooting and passing, as well as the concept of team work and hard work. Indoor Soccer starts on Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at the Mahoney Rec Center and costs \$30.00. Be sure to register soon as the 5 – 6 year old age group is full and there are only 2 spots left in the 7 – 8 year old age group!

**Mural Madness:** Work closely with staff at the Bennet Leisure Center and local artist Jeff Slobodien to learn how to make a mural. Students will also participate in a local art show and create and install a mural in Manchester! Register now for this creative program that is held on Thursdays from 6:15 – 7:15pm!

**Shmalentine's Valentines:** Come celebrate relationships, friends and families (or don't) at the Shmalentine's Valentines Dance at the Bennet Leisure Center on Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00pm. All 6<sup>th</sup> grade students from Manchester are welcome. Call 860-647-3084 to pre-register and then pay \$5.00 at the door (fee includes prizes and meal). Please note that student IDs or Recreation Youth Passes are required. Music provided by DJ Dale.

**Bennet Leisure Center Clubs and Programs:** Bennet Leisure Center is a recreation center that provides programming for 6<sup>th</sup> graders, weekday evening drop-in recreation programs and family community events. Residents can also use this site to register for programs and obtain recreation passes. There is no fee, but Recreation cards are required. Come to 22 School Street Monday – Friday from 6:00 – 9:00pm to join in on fun programs such as Chess Club, Indoor Soccer, Dodgeball, Flag Football, Creative Arts and our Game Activity Club!

**Nathan Hale Drop In Rec:** Drop-in basketball, board games, active games, arts & crafts and more have started at the Nathan Hale Activity Center, 160 Spruce Street, for children ages 5 – 18. There is no fee, but Recreation cards are required. Come join us on Saturdays from 12:00 – 5:00pm!

**Start Smart:** Parents work together with their children in a supportive environment to learn the basics of sports. Start Smart teaches children a variety of skills. Parent involvement is required. Register now for Start Smart Basketball which will begin in February and Start Smart Baseball which will begin in April. Start Smart programming is held on Saturday mornings at the Community Y Rec Center for 3 – 5 year olds. The fee is \$65.00 for residents and \$82.00 for non-residents and includes equipment.

**Indoor Tennis:** Kids ages 4 – 12 will learn the basic tennis lessons – groundstroke, backhand, forehand, volleying and serving. Please wear gym clothes and bring a racquet. Indoor Tennis takes place in the evening at the Mahoney Rec Center starting Tuesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Be sure to register soon as some sessions are already half full!

*See Aquatics above for information on swimming lessons.*

### Free Family Fun Nights

**Zumba Dance Party:** Join Marisa Paradis for a night of Zumba, lots of laughter, a raffle and a ton of fun for the entire family! Zumba is designed to bring people together to sweat with low-intensity and high-intensity moves for an interval style family dance fitness party. Join us at the Nathan Hale Activity Center, 160 Spruce Street, on Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 7:30pm!

**The Bremen Town Musicians:** What are a donkey, dog, cat and a rooster to do when they have to leave the farm? Try and become world famous musicians of course! Join Cactus Head Puppets for the hilarious tale of four farm animals that set out on the road to Bremen to pursue their dreams of fame and fortune, and come together to create beautiful music and a new home. Show length is 45 minutes plus Q&A after the show. Join us for this free Family Fun Night on Friday, February 23d from 6:30 – 7:30pm at the Nathan Hale Activity Center, 160 Spruce Street.

### Miscellaneous

**Martin Luther King Jr Day Holiday Hours:** Bennet Leisure Center – Closed, Center Springs Main Office – Closed,

Community Y Rec Center – Open for Drop in (please note that fitness classes will not be held), Mahoney Rec Center – Open 3:00 – 9:30pm, MHS Pools - Closed

**Office of Neighborhoods and Families Division**  
**153 Spruce Street, 860-647-3089**

**Free Family Fun Nights**

**Let's Breathe!:** Practice the arts of multimedia mask making and Zentangle with your child, or break out the crayons and colored pencils at the "Coloring for All Ages" station! Featuring BHF Imagination Playground, an indoor play experience for children 0 – 5 years of age. Join us for this free Family Fun Night on Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6:30 – 8:00pm at Gallery 153, 153 Spruce Street.

**Bits & Pieces:** Play with bits and pieces as you and your child craft your own collage and mosaic masterpieces. This event will also be featuring Building Healthy Families' Imagination Playground, an indoor play experience for children ages 0 – 5. Join us for this free Family Fun Night on Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6:30 – 8:00pm at Gallery 153, 153 Spruce Street.

**Youth Programming**

**Write Out Loud Open Mic Nights:** Come take part in youth-led poetry and hip hop dance workshops and then close your night with performing and/or cheering on others who display their talent and creativity in front of an encouraging audience! Open Mic Nights will be at the Eastside Neighborhood Resource Center, 153 Spruce Street. Performers will be youth ages 13 – 19 and the audience/workshop attendees will be of all ages! The next Write Out Loud Open Mic Night will be Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 – 8:00pm. This is a free drop-in program, so come join us!

**E.Y.E.S. LEGO Mini Camps:** Mini-camp sessions offered during the week of April vacation to introduce your child to a new and exciting S.T.E.A.M. program (full camps to be offered the summer of 2018). This program uses LEGO as the tool for experiential learning and reinforcing S.T.E.A.M. concepts. Register online now by visiting [reconline.townofmanchester.org](http://reconline.townofmanchester.org), or call 860-647-3089 for more information!

**Youth Service Bureau Division**  
**63 Linden Street, 860-647-5213**

**Early Childhood Programming**

**Early Childhood Center:** Registration is ongoing for Early Childhood programming at the Northwest Park Early Childhood Center. Register today for wonderful programming such as Wonder Years, Wee Two, Happy Together, Cradle to Crayons and the Mommy & Me Playgroup!

**Youth Programming**

**Strengthening Families:** This program is a skills training program found to significantly improve parenting skills and family relationships, reduce problem behaviors, delinquency and alcohol & drug abuse in children, and improve social competencies and school performance. Dinner will be served each night to the full family. Please let us know if you will need free babysitting services for younger siblings when you register. This program will be held on Monday evenings from 5:30 – 8:00pm at the Youth Service Bureau. Strengthening Families will start on Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup> targeting youth ages 9 – 14 years for no cost.

**Teen Center:** The YSB Teen Center is open Monday – Friday from 2:30 – 5:30pm. Teens are asked to bring their recreation cards as they will now be swiped at the Teen Center. If your child does not have a recreation card, they can now obtain one right at the Teen Center!

Park Report – January 2018

-Ice Skating Rinks – as of 1/11/18, 24 days open at Charter Oak Park, 10 at Union Park. Anticipate rain 1/12 & 1/13 but hope to reopen following week.

-Tree trimming and cleanups in Parks as snow/weather permits.

-Beginning stages of Union Park renovation plans (plantings, etc.).

-Continue working on Master Plan for Center Springs Park.