

## HARTFORD PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

6:30 PM – Recreation Center, Community Room A

Present: Todd Rusniak, Mark Kohnhorst, Jeff Turchi, Amy Hoffmann, Todd Bultman

Excused: Scott Helms, Karin Buhle

1. President Rusniak called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM; "This is an open meeting under 19.81 to 19.98 of the Wisconsin State Statutes".
2. Approval of Minutes  
**MOTION BY** Bultman, seconded by Kohnhorst to approve the December minutes.  
**MOTION CARRIED**
3. Informational Monthly Staff Reports – Reviewed.
4. Communication and Correspondence – None
5. Appearances / Public Comments – None
6. Old Business – Volunteers for a Beautiful Hartford (VBH) Update on Riverwalk Plans / Mural Project – VBH has an artist for the mural project, however there are no design updates. The project is larger than anticipated in size and cost and VBH will need time to fundraise. Therefore, this project will not be completed this coming year as hoped.
7. New Business

### ADMINISTRATION

Volunteers for a Beautiful Hartford (VBH) Request to Install a Kaleidoscope Garden Along the Riverwalk – Executive Summary - A Kaleidoscope Garden is a small garden, more like a very large hanging basket, with at least one, sometimes two, kaleidoscopes that can be used to view the colorful plants in the garden as the subject matter of the kaleidoscopes. VBH would like to place one on the north side of the walk path near N. Main Street, 100' into the parkway. The project will need lighting and there is a light pole nearby. VBH would be responsible for maintaining the planter once installed. VBH would like to complete this project in 2020 and will need to raise \$6,000-\$7,000.

Commission had favorable comments regarding this project believing it fit well with the goal of having art sculptures and designs along the Rubicon River pathway.

**MOTION BY** Hoffmann, seconded by Kohnhorst, to approve the installation of a kaleidoscope garden donated by the Volunteers for a Beautiful Hartford for placement along the Riverwalk.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Recreation Center Facility Tour – At the end of the meeting, the Commission saw the changes made to the multi purpose room 217 which is now used primarily for Spin classes, Tae Kwon Do and Birthday Party Rentals. With the After School Program cancelled this year, and the Tots A Lot 4-5 year old preschool also not being held, Staff created space in 217 to store spin bikes to make this a spin room. This will allow spin classes to be held earlier in the evening than they have been as the classes were held in room 210 which then had to wait until Jazzercise

ended at 7:30 PM. Including additional storage created by sectioning off a portion of the room with a curtain, the room has received a fresh coat of paint.

The Commission also toured the Pool getting updates on the repairs to the water slide tower support/stairs. Staff also informed the Commission on the possible change of status of the Therapy Pool. When built, the design and operation plan was to work with Aurora Rehab to offer water therapy in the Therapy Pool. Aurora no longer co-ops with the department and we offer no therapy supervised programs. The Department programs the pool for Adult/Senior open swim exercise without a therapist but the lap swim guard located in the main pool immediately outside the Therapy Pool guards the patrons using the pool. The State, in review of our current guard plan for that pool, is concerned with the effectiveness of the guard to manage both areas. They prefer we change the pool designation to an Exercise Pool and that following a process called "Petition for Variance" where we would seek to change it to be a licensed Warm Water Exercise Pool. Changing the designation would allow us to have this pool legally open during "Open Swim" without a designated lifeguard. However, if we held classes in that pool such as water aerobics or swim lessons, we would still be required to have a guard. The staff guarding the main pool would no longer monitor the Warm Water Exercise Pool. The Exercise Pool would by code have a sign stating "No Lifeguard". The review and pool designation change could require some mechanical and physical changes such as adjusting flow rates and removing therapy / exercise bars. The pool temperature would need to be set at no higher than 93 degrees. Staff is continuing to work with the governing bodies to license this pool appropriately.

### **RECREATION PROGRAMS / ACTIVITIES**

Staff mentioned these upcoming programs:

- Winter Session 1 Fitness Classes Start Week of January 6
- Snowed In At the Movies, Friday, January 17, Grades 9-12
- Youth Super Bowl Party, Friday, January 31st, Ages 10-14 – various football activities in the gym and pool

### **ADULT / YOUTH SPORT**

Staff mentioned these upcoming programs:

- Three Point Contest, Saturday February 1, Ages 8-13
- New Youth Soccer Games, Ages 7-9, Starts January 18
- Pee Wee Soccer (ages 4-6), Session 1, Starts January 18

### **AQUATICS**

#### Signicast Aquatic Center

Indoor Chipping – This is a new program. For \$5 people can hit foam golf balls into the lap lanes during Toddler Swim, Tuesday & Thursdays 10-11:30 AM. Floating targets will be placed in the water with one target being worth a name in prize drawings.

March Madness Pool Ball – Basketball games in the pool while floating in a tube. Open to ages 10-14. Program will run for 5 weeks starting February 28 on Friday evenings during open swim.

Swim Lessons, Session 1 – Starts January 18 with classes held on Saturday mornings, Monday or Wednesday evenings.

Veterans Memorial Aquatic Center – None

## **PARKS OPERATIONS**

Ice Rink Report – They have been installed, but there is not enough frost to flood.

Tree Plantings / Screening Dog Park – Twelve evergreens have been transplanted from our tree nursery to the dog park to provide a natural screening to the neighbors bordering the park.

Parks Project Report –

Independence Dog Park Tree Plantings

Winterize / store mowing equipment

Constructed a stair platform for access into the Willowbrook Park Ice Rink

Snow removal work

## **OTHER REPORTS /COMMISSION REQUESTS**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY** Bultman seconded by Hoffmann to adjourn at 7:19 PM.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Submitted by Mike Hermann and Sara Cummings

"Persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations for attendance at the meeting should contact the City Clerk at least one (1) business day prior to the meeting." Members of the Common Council may attend the above meeting. Pursuant to State ex rel. Badke v. Greendale Village Board, 173 Wis. 2d 553, 494 N.W. 2d 408 (1993) such attendance may be considered a meeting of the Common Council may attend the meeting without violating the open meeting law."