

HARTFORD PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

6:30 PM – City Hall Council Chambers

Present: Todd Rusniak, Amy Hoffmann, Karen Buhle, Joe Fulop, Mark Kohnhorst, Jeff Troeller

Excused: Scott Helms

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** Troeller seconded by Kohnhorst to approve the May minutes.
MOTION CARRIED
3. Informational Monthly Staff Reports – Reviewed.
4. Communication and Correspondence – None
5. Appearances / Public Comments – None
6. Old Business – None
7. New Business

ADMINISTRATION

Introduction of New Parks & Recreation Commission Aldermanic Representative – The Mayor has appointed Joe Fulop as the aldermanic representative to the Parks & Recreation Commission.

July Meeting – President Rusniak confirmed that the Commission members would be able to attend a July 11th Meeting, as the first Wednesday in July is the 4th. While the July meeting is normally the park tour meeting, Becky Binns from MSA will be at this meeting to further discuss progress on the CORP. Also, due to Library Board and Police & Fire Commission meeting the 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Council Chambers, the meeting will be likely held at the Recreation Center.

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan – Becky Binns with MSA, the consultants the City has hired to help staff update the City's 5 Year CORP, reviewed with the Commission the following:

- Needs Assessment
- Community Survey Results – over 600 responded
- Stakeholder Questionnaires – only a few returned
- Public Involvement Meeting Results – very lightly attended
- Park Assessment Forms – completed by the Commissioners

In addition, the Commission, with Becky, brainstormed ideas for park development plans for both Centennial and Charles Brasure Park. In general, the Commission viewed Centennial as a hub for the city and a great venue for markets and concerts. Charles Brasure park was viewed as more of a passive recreation park, with trails and maybe a small play area.

2019 City Budget Schedule: Capital Project and Operation Materials – The CIP is due July 11. The Director was not able to gather the materials to share with the Commission at this meeting in regards to the current and potential CIP projects. However, as they will be due before the Commission meets again, the Director encouraged the

Commission to reach out to him should they have questions about the CIP's, would like to review them or have an item to be added.

RECREATION PROGRAMS / ACTIVITIES

Summer Playground Camp – Starts June 11. Registrations at Woodlawn are consistent with previous year registrations while the numbers at Independence site are low. Staff is considering combining the two sites if registrations do not increase at Independence.

Summer Tennis - Registrations are low in the first session of youth lessons as well as our adult tennis programs. Some classes will be dropped while others will be held with one instructor. It is believed that the High School youth tennis program has affected our enrollment numbers over the last few years.

Strength and Speed – Open to those ages 10-14. Instructed by an Aurora athletic trainer and starts June 11.

ADULT / YOUTH SPORT

Youthball Report – The 3-T, 4-T and 5-6 T leagues have their clinics this week. With those clinics, all leagues are up and running. Team and individual pictures are June 7.

Archery – Youth archery will begin July 2. It will be held on Mondays in the Recreation Center Gym.

AQUATICS

Signicast Aquatic Center

DEHUMIDIFICATION PROJECT – this is on schedule with the anticipated shut down of the pool July 9th and the anticipated re-open date September 2.

REQUEST TEMPORARY VMAC OUTDOOR WATER AEROBICS – With the extended shut down of the Signicast Pool, there have been requests to hold an outdoor evening water aerobics class. Staff has considered ways to do this without interfering with regular VMAC operations including not adding additional staff hours. The only location staff felt could be closed is the raft waterslide towards the end of open swim. Staff suggested a Tuesday/Thursday class at 7:15 PM for 45 minutes or 7:30 PM for 30 minute class. This would shut the slide down 30-45 minutes earlier than normal. The lazy river would continue to be open with people floating past the exercise class. Approximately 10 individuals have indicated they would be interested in this class.

While discussing the options, Commission concerns included –

- this was not part of the original pool schedule and not advertised that portions of the pool would be closed to open swim patrons
- patrons being upset should part of the pool be closed during the time they have paid for, especially on hot days.
- patrons of the lazy river feeling uncomfortable with an exercise class held in the center of their 'relaxed' pool time
- if it was a hot night, would patrons be called to say class was cancelled due to high pool attendance. If it was a cool night, would enough people come to class
-

In general, most Commissioners did not feel it was worth disrupting pool patrons for 10 possible aerobic participants.

MOTION BY Fulop, seconded by Kohnhorst to deny the request to hold an evening water aerobics class at VMAC

MOTION CARRIED

Veterans Memorial Aquatic Center –

VMAC OPENING – Opening weekend was hot and busy yet the very young, new staff did well. Around 150 “Laps for Logan” participants used their free swim pass.

LAKE COUNTRY SWIM CLUB EVENT – On Saturday, June 9th, Lake Country will be hosting a swim meet like they did last year. Although staff had published the opening time for public swim for this date to be at 1 PM instead of Noon to accommodate this meet, Coach Kohnhorst believes the meet will conclude by noon. The meet competitors will get a free pass to attend open swim for that day.

SWIM PASS SALES – Passes continue to be sold at the Recreation Center.

SESSION 1 SWIM LESSON – June 11-22. Class numbers are low as well as the number of instructors available to teach this session. Aquatic / Fitness Supervisor will be teaching to help cover the classes.

FATHER CANNONBALL CONTEST – This contest will be held on Sunday, June 17th at 2 PM and 4 PM.

CLOSING POLICY – The Commission received a hand out on the low attendance and inclement weather closing policy. These are policies that they have already reviewed and approved and will be posted at the pool.

PARKS OPERATIONS

Parks Project Report - MAY SPECIAL PROJECTS

- Cemeteries – grounds maintained for Memorial Day
- Saywer Park – grounds prepped for Memorial Day
- Independence Park – water service to ball diamond concession building/bathrooms services
- West Side Park – 10 trees planted
- Downtown – equipment delivered for BID Car Show
- Various Parks – branch clean up, summer playground inspections started, worked with Volunteers for Beautiful Hartford for park weeding/clean up, assist community groups and HUHS in supplies and materials for Day of Service
- Millpond Fountains - one fountain is in for service and would cost \$3,000 to repair (new ones are \$5,000). This will not be repaired or replaced at this time as the money is not in the budget. The fountains were originally paid for by various service clubs and Hartford Electric/Utilities. Staff hopes to have the other two fountains installed by next week.

New Parks & Cemetery Crew Member – Ben Forester was hired to fill the opening created by the retirement of Junior Roethle. Four applicants were interviewed. Ben comes to us from the DPW department. He will start in on June 11.

OTHER REPORTS /COMMISSION REQUESTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY Hoffman seconded by Buhle to adjourn at 9:55 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."