

HARTFORD PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Wednesday, August 3, 2022

5:30 PM – City Hall Council Chambers

Present: Todd Rusniak, John Klabacheck, Scott Helms, Ken Mikulec, Joe Kohler, Karin Buhle, Kate Carroll

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 – July minutes were not available and will be in the September packet.
3. Informational Monthly Staff Reports – Reviewed.
Alderperson Kohler asked for preliminary numbers on the County Admissions at the outdoor pool. Staff will have those at the next meeting.
4. Communication and Correspondence – None
5. Appearances / Public Comments – None
6. Old Business – None
7. New Business

ADMINISTRATION

Election of Officers – President Rusniak opened the floor for nominations for President of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

MOTION BY Klabachek, seconded by Mikulec, to nominate Todd Rusniak as President.

No other nominations. The floor was closed.

MOTION CARRIED

President Rusniak opened the floor for nominations for Vice President of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

MOTION BY Carroll, seconded by Buhle to nominate Scott Helms as Vice-President.

No other nominations. The floor was closed.

MOTION CARRIED

Candy Cane Park Donation – The City accepted a donation of \$50,000 from Robert and John Nightingale in memory of their parents Larry and Gertrude. Larry was a City of Hartford employee for many years in the Department of Public Works and Engineering. The Nightingales lived close to this park and the sons would like to see improvements to the play equipment. Candy Can Park has been scheduled in the CIP for updates, but with this donation, the project will move forward sooner and allow for more equipment than what was budgeted. The City is very grateful for this unexpected donation. The Director will include a park bench in the park plans with a plaque on the bench recognizing Larry and Gertrude Nightingale.

RECREATION PROGRAMS / ACTIVITIES

Playground Camp Summary – Playground camp has been averaging 44 participants per session. The young, new staff have been doing well. There is one more session left and a few additional field trips will be offered as we close out the summer.

Tots A Little Registration – Registration for the 3-4 year old pre-school program began in mid-July. Most classes still have openings and staff is marketing this program on social media and websites.

Cheerleading, Ages 6-12, Starts Wednesday August 10. They will have 6 weeks of practice and then perform at a Flag Football game.

ADULT / YOUTH SPORT

Youthball Report – The season is wrapping up with the last games held last week. Coaches are returning equipment. It was another good year.

Youth Football – Flag Football league starts with two practices at the end of August and 6 Saturdays of intra-mural games starting after Labor Day. Teams are coached by the HUHS Varsity players. This program is open to boys and girls ages 6-7 and 8-11.

Summer Kickball – A short 4 week season to finish out the summer has been popular with kids ages 6-11. This year we have 40 kids registered.

AQUATICS

Veterans Memorial Aquatic Center –

Update – Post Season Hours will begin on August 15 and will be Monday through Friday 12-3:30, Saturday and Sunday 12-6. There will be no extended Water Walking or Lap Swim this year. The last day the pool will be open will be August 28. Even with these limited hours, the Aquatic Fitness Supervisor will have difficulty staffing the facility as students return to school and athletics. Management has been very appreciative of the staff and their hard work. It has been a successful summer and people have been very understanding when we have had to close features.

The last session of swim lessons starts next week. Swim lessons registrations have been good this summer and the Aquatic Fitness Supervisor has been able to train additional instructors to be able to add classes in the last few sessions.

Signicast Family Aquatic Center –

Annual Maintenance / Cleaning Shut Down – August 15 – September 9. This is slightly longer than normal due to the re-caulking project which will take a bit to cure/dry. The re-surfacing as well as slide tower replacement and water feature update will likely be done next summer.

PARKS OPERATIONS

Parks Project Report –

Staff helped with the fishing platform Eagle Scout project by pouring cement for the walkway and platform.

The large Willow tree by the playground has split and will need to be completely removed.

New tornado siren to go in at Rotary Park. Fire Department is purchasing it and the installation will be completed by utilities.

Centennial Park Update – City Engineer John Griffin reported on the progress of Centennial Park. The design company, MSA, requested a little extra time to prepare bid documents. The documents will be ready by the first week in September and will still be able to go to Council for approval in mid October as originally planned. By November/December, the footings for the pavilion could be installed with additional work during the winter months to follow.

The recent heavy rain has delayed draining and drying the Mill Pond, which has delayed work on the retaining wall. In addition, contaminated soil has been found. Most of the contamination seems to be on the north eastern part of the park, where little development is to be done. However, additional samples will need to be evaluated to determine what will need to be removed and sent to an environment landfill for disposal. The environmental cost for soil sampling could total up to \$150,000 in soil management. Additionally, due to contamination, the new retaining walls may need to be installed behind the exiting wall and then the exiting wall removed instead of removing the existing wall and then installing the new walls. This would help control the amount of soil disturbed in the wall installation process. The City Engineer reiterated that the de-watering will be the biggest scheduling obstacle.

Parks Bathroom Renovation Updates – The construction documents for the three park bathrooms are completed and out for bid. These bathroom projects should still be on schedule to be completed by year end per the directive of the CBDG grant. This grant is a partial funding source for these bathroom renovations projects.

OTHER REPORTS /COMMISSION REQUESTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY Kohler, seconded by Buhle to adjourn at 6:06 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

Submitted by,

Randy Wojtasiak 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."