

Wallingford Parks & Recreation Commission Agenda

Special Meeting

Wednesday, June 21, 2023 @ 5:30 PM

6 Fairfield BLVD. Wallingford

Room 4 Conference Room

Agenda for June 21, 2023

- Call Meeting to Order: Vice Chairman Don Crouch called the meeting to order @ 5:34 pm
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call

Commissioners in Attendance: Vice Chairman Don Crouch, Lori Cooke-Marra, Steve Rossacci

Commissioners Absent: Chairman John Sullivan, Lars Edeen

Recreation Department Staff Present: Kenny Michaels, Director of Recreation Parks & Recreation

- Approval of prior meeting(s) minutes (April 5th 2023)

A motion was made by Lori Cooke-Marra and seconded by Steve Rossacci to approve the minutes from the April 5, 2023 meeting. Vote: unanimous

- Public Comment (10 minutes) – None
- Parks and Recreation Brochure (Commissioner Cooke-Marra)

Lori Cooke-Marra noticed some acreage discrepancies for a couple parks in the Parks & Rec Brochure. Kenny Michaels will verify this. Also, there are some changes to Tyler Mill description that he wants to look into.

- Legacy Garden Nominees 2023 – P&R Director Michaels
Wallace Park

This is designed for non-profit civic groups who helped Wallingford. The Hungarian Club started this back in 2007/2008. The ceremony is usually done in the Spring, but it will be done this Fall 2023. Two organizations will be nominated in the fall. Kenny thinks we only have about four spots available. Kenny would like to eventually expand the garden.

- Update and Discussion on Organizing Park Cleanups. Kenny has five gallons of white concrete paint available to use.
 - Wallace Park – The pillars need to be scraped and painted. Sheehan Lacrosse team is looking to help out.
 - Harrison Park - The dugouts need to be painted.
 - West Side Field – The West Side field building needs to be painted.

Kenny said that the Parks & Rec Maintainers will be able to prep the Park Cleanups before volunteer groups come in to do work.

- Parks & Recreation update – Director Kenny Michaels (See attached)

Next Parks & Recreation Meeting Wednesday, November 8th, 2023

Adjourned @ 6:19 pm Motion to adjourn made by: Steve Rossacci, 2nd by Lori Cooke-Marra
Vote: unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Loriann Ouellette, Senior Clerk
Wallingford Parks and Recreation

Recreation Commission Director's Report June 21, 2023

Programs/Events:

- **Spring Programs:**
 - Total Activities - 167
 - Canceled Activities - 15
 - Activities Ran - 200
 - Participants – 2,273
 - running rate – 91%
- Summer Program Session Began Monday June 19th
- **Final Summer Camp Registration Numbers:**
 - Pop Shots MWF Session FULL 25 per session
 - Pop Shots T/TH Session 24 (1 spot remaining)
 - Tiny Bubbles MWF & T/TH Both FULL with 25
 - Summer Sizzlers FULL 125
- **Playgrounds**
 - MYB Session 1: 115 Session 2: 115
 - Stevens Session 1: 116 Session 2: 113
 - Fritz Session 1: 116 Session 2: 116
- Currently in the process of interviews for new pre school teacher for Lil Rec'ers Program
- Fall Brochure development and planning under way.
- Hip House Middle School Dance Passes on Sale for the 2023-2024 School Year

Projects/Facilities:

Current -

- Public Works has been working on sprinkler repairs which has caused sod damage on Field 5 at Pragemann Park. This is the 3rd and hopefully the final repair to this area of the field. Girls Little League is hosting District 5 play and we have two major tournaments coming up that rented the Pragemann Complex. June 30-July Traditions Softball Tournament (Estimated 55 teams) and July 14-16 USA Elite Softball Tournament (Estimated 85-95 teams)
- Part Time Maintainers continue great work with beautification of Parks and Recreation Facility and Parks. Recently mulched and cleaned out all landscaping at 6 Fairfield Blvd. Mulched various gardens and signs at parks such as Kendrick, Harrison, Wallace, Marcus Cooke, Vietnam Veterans Park and Pragemann.
- Awaiting on the delivery of the new park signs for Harriet Wallace, Community Lake and Pat Wall.
- Need to discuss with Public Works the line striping in parking lots at parks and playing fields. Most notably West Side Field, Pragemann, Harrison and Community Lake. **NO UPDATE**
- **NO UPDATE STILL AWAITING WORK TO BE SCHEDULED BY PW** Completed Ball Field Light Audit end of December. This shows the amount of light bulbs out at each field that need to be repaired. This audit was also sent over to the PW Department so they can coordinate the lift and replacement of bulbs.

West Side Baseball - 11 (Need to do West Side SB as winter locks are on the building)

Doolittle Park - 2

Woodhouse Soccer Field 1 - NONE

Community Lake Baseball – NONE

Pat Wall – 12

Prag Soccer – 2

Prag Quad Softball Fields – 13

Prag Field #6 – 1

Prag Field #5 – 1

- Met with Engineering Department on January 6th to review plans and bid specifications for basketball court replacement at Doolittle Park. Looking to replace both courts (Henry St. and Wall St) all contingent on cost as the price of post tension concrete courts have gone up significantly. **Bid closed on March 30 with a proposed price of \$327k to do the entire project of both basketball courts. Engineering said to plan for 10% in incidentals just in case. Project cost estimated \$360k. Currently \$200k in the 2022-2023 cap and non budget. May look to request the balance to be covered with sitting ARPA funds so both courts are completed at the same time. This would complete all of the sport courts at Doolittle Park. UPDATE: MONETARY TRANSFER APPROVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF \$160K FROM CAPITAL AND NON RE-OCCURRING TO FUND THE BALANCE OF THE PROJECT. PROJECT WAS AWARDED TO CLASSIC TURF. CONSTRUCTION TENTATIVELY TO BEGIN EARLY FALL WITH PAINTING COMPLETION DONE IN EARLY SPRING 2024.**
- Bid Opening for the replacement of the OF field Fence at West Side Softball Field is April 4th. This would replace the entire outfield fence on the softball field foul pole to foul pole and increase the height to 24ft to eliminated the layers of netting that has been used in the past and has been remove due to the continued damage during wind storms. **UPDATE: Westside Softball Field Fence Project has been awarded to Select Fence and Guardrail out of New Haven. Project will increase the fence heigh in the outfield to 24'. Contractor awaiting supplied from the distributor before scheduling the work. Estimated time of completion from start to finish 5-7 days.**
- Annual Community Lake Shoreline Clearing project underway. Project being done by Butler Inc. Remaining work to be completed the week of June 26th. This is the grinding and clearing of the overgrowth along 900ft of shoreline starting from the canoe launch to the birdhouses in the open grass area. This provides views of Community Lake from the pavilion and QRLT along with access for residents and families to fish at the lake.
- Working with Gerge Messier from the Veterans office on the restoration of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Monument. Repainting needs to be done to restore the gold color to the name of the Wallingford Veterans Killed in Action. Anticipated to have completed the end of the summer. Also received quotes from the town's sidewalk brick vendor to repair the brick walkway around the monument. The walkway is raised in several areas around the monument. Will have to discuss this project with the mayor as it is not a budgeted item and the department will most likely have to request a transfer to complete. If transfer not approved, will be budgeted for 2023-2025 budget.

Budget –

- Items submitted in the Parks and Recreation FYI 2023-2024 Budget
 1. 12 Picnic Tables (4 ADA / 8 Regular) to continue the town wide upgrade at pavilions. **UPDATE: WAS REMOVED FROM BUDGET, BEING FUNDED WITH ARPA MONEY**

2. 1 New Volleyball System for Gymnasium
3. 2 New Volleyball Referee Stands
4. Flagpole for 6 Fairfield Blvd
5. New Cargo Van for transporting equipment and supplies to programs and events. Last new vehicle purchased was in 2001. **UPDATE: REMOVED FROM BUDGET, BEING FUNDED WITH ARPA MONEY**
6. New Playground Slide to replace the current one at Pire Park

Upcoming –

- Look to extend dugouts at Prag Fields 1-4 using Prag Endowment

This Summer –

- Send out bid to have gym floor repainted and lined
- Get cost to expand the dugouts at Prageman Quad Fields 1-4