

SHELTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

The Shelton Parks and Recreation Commission held a Regular Meeting on Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Shelton Community Center, 41 Church Street, Shelton, CT.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

David Zamba, Chairman
Robert Zuraw, Vice Chairman
Debra McGlone
Darrin Beseschek
Jeff Van Scoy
Mike Gonsalves
Chris Battisteli

COMMISSION MEMBERS EXCUSED

Michelle Haywood
Sharna Kozak
Gary Cahill
Lorenzo Durante

COMMISSION MEMBER ABSENT

Hannah Perry

ALSO PRESENT

Bill Manion, Acting Director of Parks and Recreation
Jonathan Taylor, Aquatics Director
Kenneth Roberts, Park Superintendent
Sarah Vournazos, Recording Secretary

ALSO EXCUSED

Allison Wells, Recreation Supervisor & Acting Assistant Director

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Zamba opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All those who were present, rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC PORTION

Chairman Zamba opened up the public portion and the following members spoke.

1. Ms. Sally Kiman, Shelton, CT addressed the Commission. She indicated she has been a resident of Shelton, CT for 57 years and a member of the water aerobics classes for 18 years. She mentioned she created a petition to allow there to be 14 participants instead of 12 participants to enroll in the water aerobics classes.
2. Ms. Anna Tokarz, Shelton, CT addressed the Commission. She indicated she has been a member of the water aerobics classes for four years. She stated, "this class has literally saved my life...we're like a family in the pool." She referenced the registration process, noting she would like to not have to worry about being able to enroll.

3. Ms. Roberta Reynolds, Shelton, CT addressed the Commission. She mentioned that she is President of the Friends of the Animal Shelter, noting she helps raise funds to vaccinate and spay the animals in the shelter so they are adoptable. She indicated she is looking for a place to take pet photos with Santa Claus. She noted that Pet Supplies Plus on Bridgeport Avenue is no longer available, but would like to use the dance studio in the Community Center.
4. Ms. Constance "Connie," Schwartz, Shelton, CT addressed the Commission. She indicated she has been a member of the water aerobics classes for 15 years. She referenced the registration process for the water aerobics classes, noting that a person could have been able to enroll in the class if they "were on time."

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Comm. Beseschek made a motion to approve the April 18, 2024 Minutes, seconded by Comm. Gonsalves. All in favor, motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

STAFF REPORTS

Acting Director's Report:

Mr. Manion referenced the leaky fire hydrant at Shelton Intermediate School. He relayed that the fire department said they did not plan to use it for fires and noted that Mr. Ron Herrick and the Board of Education thought it was used to water the fields before there was proper irrigation. Mr. Manion mentioned that the fire hydrant is part of the irrigation line and it will be capped.

Mr. Manion brought up the turf field, noting CEH Engineering has been selected for it. He then referenced the 4th of July fireworks and that American Fireworks Display has been selected for them. He mentioned that all of the bands for the summer concerts have been booked and the outdoor spring and summer programs are open for registration. He indicated the Ad Committee letters were sent out and has received \$3,500 in donations.

Mr. Manion reported that people put their household garbage into the recycle bins at East Village Park. Mr. Roberts stated that there are signs on the cans saying, "recyclable / returnable only," but the cans were full of garbage. Mr. Manion relayed that the parking lot has been redone at Southbank Park and signs have been installed saying, "no overnight parking." Mr. Roberts mentioned that there are 8 parking spaces with one handicap parking space. Comm. Zuraw inquired about creating decals which are similar to the boat ramp. Mr. Manion replied that Ms. Kellie Vazzano is looking to have a committee formed and that the parking lot should be for just residents.

Mr. Manion indicated he spoke with the Maintenance Department about repairing the flag poles at the Community Center and a broken step at the Civic Club. He mentioned one of the poles has been broken for approximately 8 years and there is now a flag caught in a tree.

Acting Assistant Director's Report and Recreation Supervisor's Report:

None.

Aquatics Director's Report:

Mr. Taylor reported that group swim lessons are doing well but only ran for four weeks due to not having enough life guards. He indicated he would like to have another WSI course so he may hire more instructors. He mentioned that private swim lessons and adult water aerobics are also doing well. He noted he has added a third adult water aerobics class and the current participants have priority registration. He relayed that one adult water aerobics class took 8 hours to fill up and the other took four days for complete enrollment. He stated that he is in favor of keeping the registration process as it is.

Parks Superintendent's Report:

Mr. Roberts reported that his crew emptied many garbage cans throughout the City of Shelton and had a few days of roadside pick-up. He indicated his crew spent a lot of time with setting up for the events (carnival and monument dedication) at Veteran's Memorial Park and mulched at the Riverwalk. He mentioned there was tree work done at Elizabeth Shelton School, Shelton High School and at Veteran's Memorial Park. He stated that the playgrounds have been mulched and the equipment is in "good working condition."

Mr. Roberts relayed that he received clay and removed the old goals from the soccer fields at East Village Park and Capewell Park. However, he reported he is behind with things due to not having enough staff and it raining a lot. Chairman Zamba said, "East Village Park looks great," and Comm. McGlone stated, "the fields look good though."

Mr. Roberts pointed out that people have been parking on both sides of the T-field at Sunnyside and the Department of Public Works has installed signs to deter it. Comm. Beseschek replied that he will inform them not to park on both sides.

Comm. Van Scoy made a motion to accept all Staff Reports, seconded by Comm. Zuraw. All were in favor, motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**Finance Committee:**

Comm. Zuraw reported expenses for youth football and softball, G.I. John's, Blanchette's, equipment repairs and turf products.

Gazebo Committee:

Chairman Zamba reported the bands for the summer concerts have been booked as well as the company for the fireworks display. He inquired about having an electrician and Mr. Manion replied that he will look into having one for Huntington Green, but there will be one for the fireworks.

Field Maintenance:

Comm. Van Scoy stated that the fields are in "good shape" considering all of the rain.

Comm. McGlone made a motion to accept all Committee Reports, seconded by Comm. Beseschek. All were in favor, motion passed.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Zamba inquired about a location for the skate park. Mr. Manion replied that it might be installed behind the Community Center. He noted he would like the skate park to have a splash pad and some pickleball courts. Chairman Zamba relayed that the President of the SEDC, Mr. Paul Grimmer, said there is a better chance of receiving funding if there are more things added to the skate park.

Comm. McGlone inquired about the height of the flag poles, noting, "I want to make sure we have flags that fit the flag poles."

NEW BUSINESS

None.

Comm. Zuraw made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. seconded by Comm. Battisteli. All were in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Vournazos

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Recording Secretary