

Board of Rec Meeting 1-13-2021

Prospect Parks & Recreation
Regular Meeting
Unapproved Minutes
January 13, 2021

The Prospect Parks & Recreation virtual meeting was called to order @ 6:06 p.m. by M. Palmerie, Jr.
Members in Attendance: D. Accetura, B. Martin, M. Witham, M. Gluck, J. Genthe, M. Palmerie, Jr
Members Absent: None
Also, in Attendance: Park & Rec Director, C. Moffo, Mayor Chatfield, Brandon Avery and Marcus Calabro of Prospect Little League

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by M. Gluck, seconded by B. Martin to approve the minutes of 11/12/2020. **Unanimous.**

Guests: M. Palmerie Jr. acknowledged the Mayor to join the meeting. (At this time, M. Palmerie Jr. was signed out of the meeting). Mayor Chatfield participated via telephone conversation advising the Board on the continuing COVID-19 discussion of opening the Town Buildings. The Mayor noted that though costly, the Town Buildings have been sprayed electronically, including the building of the Community Center after the election, which kills the COVID virus. The Mayor continued with advising that the Town Hall, Senior Center, Library and Community Center will remain closed. The Mayor commented on the UK strain of the COVID virus reaching into the State and advised that since November, when he was case 192, there has been an increase in COVID cases in the Town, with the increase reaching to 526. The Mayor also stated that he is following the guidelines of Chesprocott. The Mayor commented that many activities may be opened as of the end of April or May as more and more people are vaccinated; at that time, he will reevaluate the situation. The Mayor also stated that the Town employees will be vaccinated by the end of January. (M. Palmerie Jr. had resumed to the meeting). The Mayor as to opening for programs, he continued that he is being cautious, he wants what is best for the community. The Mayor stated that as to the Region opening for programs, that would be under the Superintendent's jurisdiction and not his. After discussion, the Mayor left the meeting.

-At this time, M. Palmerie, Jr recognized Brandon Avery of Prospect Little League. B. Avery commented that he had a meeting with C. Moffo, M. Palmerie Jr., Mayor Chatfield and Mark Capanna. B. Avery advised that he had reached out to the Board for assistance as the numbers to little league have diminished. B. Avery commented that though the numbers are falling, the fields and huts are in need of repairs. Marcus Calabro, also of Prospect Little League, was online for the meeting. M. Calabro commented that they are trying to build a nest egg for Prospect Little League and would like to build relations with the Town. Board members questioned if this was the same in other towns with low enrollment to which they were advised that it was; Travel Ball is popular, but not so much Rec Baseball. M. Palmerie Jr. joined the conversation stating that after discussion with the Mayor, M. Capanna, C. Moffo and B. Avery, it was determined that the Board may be available to assist Prospect Little League in some ways as to material, but not monetarily.

Correspondence: A review of the bills received and paid was made.

Director's Report:

Programs:

- Online Programs offered: Tai Chi: \$20.00 per class with 5 students; Fencing and Piano Lessons
- CT Stem Academy has been contacted and are offering several of their programs through the winter and early spring. All programs are virtual; the enrollment has been slow.
- Flanders Nature Center – During December, 24 wreath kits were purchased for \$20.00; each kit sold for \$10.00 the department subsidized the remaining \$10.00. Kits were well received and sold immediately.

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-Toy Drive for Town families; well received in the short amount of time offered.

Miscellaneous:

-Hotchkiss Field Camera repairs – completed last month. The cost for the repairs was \$3,110.00 which is over the \$2,410.00 quoted. The additional amount of \$700 charge was for the lift rental and new overhead cable had to be run that was not originally quoted.

-Hotchkiss Field Light Pole – JT Electric had been contacted for a replacement of the pole that had been previously cabled at Hotchkiss Field as the pole had fallen. The replacement will include 3 lights and the pole.

-Unfortunately, at this time we are still awaiting our paper town dispensers for each classroom as both times ordered, they were the wrong size. All hand sanitizers had been installed.

-The Canfield Park Tennis Courts fencing has not been completed. Cornerstone has been contacted and should be getting back to C. Moffo for future installation scheduling.

-A group from Whiting and Turner out of New Haven, would like to make a donation to the Bd of Rec for a purchase of a memorial bench for one of their members from Prospect to be placed at Hotchkiss Field.

M. Palmerie Jr questioned if all the cameras at Hotchkiss Field were working. C. Moffo commented that a router would need to be replaced at the park as no camera access could be made with the computer or on a cell phone. A submittal of the quote was given to Mayor Chatfield for insurance purposes. Board members commented that this camera is crucial for videos of the facilities building and much of the backfield.

M. Palmerie Jr. asked for comments. B. Martin commented on the issues of the Bd of Rec classes and Region 16 and the Mayor’s response. Discussion.

New Business: None

Old Business: Virtual Classes – going well as to Zoom classes that have been offered. Recommendation by M. Palmerie Jr. to send a mass email to reach out to all instructors again as to offering classes.

A discussion took place on the bandshell pavilion for Hotchkiss Field. M. Palmerie Jr. stated that this would be a project under Park Development and the Board of Rec should start planning for it out of this year’s coming Budget.

-A discussion took place on the Tennis Court at McGrath. B. Martin advised that the cracks are becoming large and pictures would be taken. C. Moffo advised that he will call for repair again and put into the upcoming Budget for repairs to the court.

-M. Palmerie Jr asked the members of the Board for their input on the Bandshell Pavilion. Board members questioned what it could be used for. A listing was given: inclement weather use, birthday parties, Soccer events, Basketball events; summer camps. Board members agreed on the Bandshell Pavilion at Hotchkiss Field and a site walk will be set.

-The discussion turned back to the building opening. M. Palermie Jr advised that the Board of Rec has no control, that until further notice, the building would be closed. The Mayor is going by Chesprocott’s advice and he is being cautious. As to programs at Region 16, that is in the hands of the Superintendent. The Board discussed losing programs and going to Superintendent Yamin for allowing programs within the schools, but first speaking with the Mayor. After discussion, it was recommended that M. Palermie Jr and C. Moffo will again speak with the Mayor.

Adjournment:

Motion made by M. Witham, seconded by M. Gluck to adjourn the meeting. **Unanimous.** Both B. Avery and M. Calabro thanked the Board for their time. The meeting adjourned @ 7:08 p.m.

Mike Palmerie Jr.
Chairman

TOWN CLERK
Thompson L. Anderson
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