



**Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2023
Elmwood Community Center, Room 24**

Meeting called to order by Marc Blanchard and announcement of Steve Kutscher as new Chair at 5:35 PM.

1. **Roll Call:** *In Attendance:* Steve Garneau, Anna Park, Steve Kutscher, Jessica Goldstein, Narayan Paudel. *Absent:* Andres Lopez, Tanja Low. *Staff in Attendance:* Marc Blanchard

2. **Adoption** of March 20, 2023 meeting minutes – passed unanimously

3. **Old Business:**

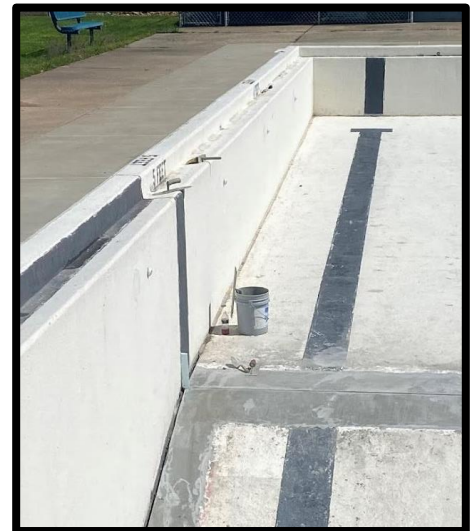
- **New Elmwood Community Center** – Town Manager and staff are exploring grants and funding opportunities for design and eventual construction of the new community center planned for 100 Mayflower Street. Expect a Request For Proposal to be issued sometime this summer.
- **Capital Improvement Update**

Outdoor Pools:

The temporary repairs at **Eisenhower Park** pool, right, are nearly complete. The masonry work and caulking is complete, and the system will be tested by June 1. The repairs are expected to allow for pool operations this summer and next summer.

The construction budget was \$2.4M, but bids came back at \$4.4M. The higher than expected results caused a delay in the construction. Additional funding was approved in the FY24 capital budget.

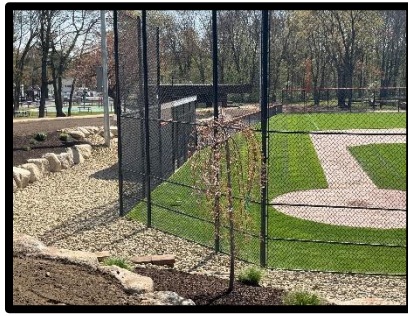
Expect to re-bid this project soon, with construction to begin in fall 2024.



Kennedy Park's
Poolhouse interior
renovation in progress
(right) and nearing
completion (left).



Wolcott Park – Recent **Baseball Field** improvements included new lights, field regrading and irrigation, and the installation of a retaining wall to address erosion.



4. New Business

- **Celebrate West Hartford** is coming up June 10 & 11. The Arts & Craft Show will feature 155 vendors. Sponsorship is strong, with 42 confirmed to date contributing \$68,000, including PeoplesBank returning as the Signature Sponsor. More than 50 non-profit exhibitors and 26 food vendors have also signed up. Volunteers are needed to help with parking, traffic flow, staffing the information booths, set up and clean up. Contact the coordinator at linda.geisler@westhartfordct.gov for more information.
- **Summer Programs** begin the week of June 26, with some camps starting the week prior, on June 20. Registrations have been high, with nearly 90% filled, but spots are available for Camp Funtastic, especially mid-summer. **Outdoor Pools** open for the season on June 17.
- **Senior Day Health Fair**, held May 10 at the West Hartford Senior Centers - Bishops Corner branch, broke records, with over 300 attendees and at least 50 service providers exhibiting. Health screenings (vision, blood pressure, glucose, cholesterol, mental health) were available, and multiple Town entities participated, including WHBHD, Fire, Police, Social Services and CERT.
- The WHBHD is giving a presentation on Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases at ECC on May 31 from 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM.



5. Friends of West Hartford Parks - Park Clean Up Day held at Wolcott, Saturday, April 29, 2023.

6. Public Comment

- A comment from Steve Garneau giving recognition to the Town for the timely placement of a memorial bench for a family member.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM

Next meeting – June 12, 2023, 5:30 PM; location Elmwood Community Center

Minutes submitted by Steve Kutscher.