



**Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2024
Elmwood Community Center, Room 24**

Meeting called to order by Anna Park, Chair, at 5:34 PM.

1. Roll Call:

In Attendance: Steve Garneau, Nancy Gierlich, Anna Park, Narayan Paudel.

Absent: Shawn Daly, Kristen Jezerski, Lisa Karam, Andres Lopez.

Staff in Attendance: Marc Blanchard

There is an open board position to fill.

2. Adoption of March 25, 2024 Minutes – passed unanimously.

3. Old Business:

- Capital Improvements Update
 - Rockledge Driving Range–Work on the revised project is underway and will continue through the summer. A RFP is being developed for building construction. Other parts of the course can be used for youth golf camp.
 - Eisenhower Bathhouse/Pool–The bathhouse renovation is on schedule to be completed by June 15, when the pool will open; the pool will be demolished after the summer and rebuilt by June 1, 2025.
 - Wolcott Park Improvements–Redwood Construction was selected to renovate the bathrooms, which will be ADA compliant and unisex. No snack bar will be built. The circular turnaround will be omitted and the parking lot redesigned, with that work to be done in the fall and into spring 2025. Porta-Potties are on site during the construction. We-Fi service will be added once the construction is completed.
 - Softball dugouts will be installed at Sterling Field and Norfeldt Field this summer.
- Summer Camps–Twelve camps begin June 17 and the rest start June 24. Westmoor is 100% full and many others are almost completely filled. Evening soccer and basketball camps will be added. Each facility trains its own staff including use of training videos; a welcome meeting for all will be held.
- Sustainability/Ecology related projects–The Tree Action Group is recommended to serve role as Forestry Advisory Committee. The ribbon cutting for Westmoor Park’s Level II Arboretum—one of three in the state—was held on Arbor Day, April 27. The event highlighted efforts of volunteer Bill Gleason, Doug Jackson, and the West Hartford Tree Action Group. The 4th annual WH Tree Project in late April distributed 1,600 plants with 13 native species.
- Celebrate West Hartford–Volunteers are needed for set up on Friday, June 7 and also for Saturday and Sunday, June 8 (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and 9 (noon to 6 p.m.). Interested folks should contact Linda Geisler at Town Hall.

4. **New Business:**

- Summer Park Safety—To support staff concerns re safety, security guards will be on duty at Beachland and Kennedy Parks from 4 p.m. to close.
- Outdoor Pool Operations—Town pools at Fernridge, Beachland, Kennedy and Eisenhower will be open June 15-August 18. The spray pad at Fernridge is open from May 25 until mid-September. The spray pad at Wolcott will be closed during restroom renovations. Cornerstone members have free access to the pools. The daily fee is \$5 or \$6 for residents and \$7.50 and \$9.00 for non-residents (cash or credit card accepted). Packs of 10, 20, or 50 swims are available for residents to purchase at cornerstone.recdesk.com.
- Fee increases for Cornerstone programs and Veterans Rink use proposed for September 1— a proposal for modest increases for swim lessons and skate entry fees and stake rentals will be presented to Town Council in June.
- There will be no membership fees for residents at the Senior Centers effective July 1.
- Steve Garneau noted that 25 bike helmets are available for distribution, possibly at the WH Celebrates police booth. He also voiced concern that there is no AED access at the two middle schools where youth programs are held.

5. **Friends of West Hartford Parks Report**

- Lisa Karam submitted an email report prior to the meeting advising that cleanup at Beachland Park was completed April 27, attended by board members and approximately 15 volunteers including youths seeking community service hours. A sponsor is needed for September movie night.

6. **Public Comment**—none.

Meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, July 22, 2024; location Elmwood Community Center.

Minutes submitted by Nancy Gierlich.