

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
July 22, 2024
Elmwood Community Center, Room 24

Meeting called to order by Anna Park, Chair at 5:35 PM.

1. Roll Call:

In Attendance: Nancy Gierlich, Kristen Jezerski, Lisa Karam, Anna Park, Narayan Paudel.

Absent: Shawn Daly, Steve Garneau.

Staff in Attendance: Marc Blanchard

There are two open board positions to fill.

2. Adoption of May 20, 2024 Minutes – passed unanimously.

3. Old Business:

- Capital Improvements Update
 - Rockledge Driving Range–Open bids for the envelope of the building are due July 23. The retaining wall has been built. Nets and poles will be put out to bid later. A late fall opening may be possible.
 - Wolcott Park Improvements–Phase Two of the project– new unisex bathrooms and space for pumps for the splash pad– is underway. Phase Three will involve the omission of the circular turnaround and redesign of the eastern parking lot.
 - Pond dredging–Plans for dredging ponds over the next two years at Buena Vista, Beachland and Wolcott are being developed. Previously, Spicebush’s pond was successfully dredged with debris moved onsite to an upland meadow.
- Summer Programs update–Volume is up and all programs are very busy. Pools are packed and fees are up. Some discipline problems are being noticed and handled. Evening sports clinics are being offered.

4. New Business:

- Fall/Winter Programs–the new brochure will be available online on August 8, and registration opens at 12 noon on August 14.
- Fall Events–The Pooch Plunge sponsored by the Dog Park Coalition will be held at Beachland August 19 (rain date August 20). The Rockledge Centennial Celebration will be held on September 6 and will feature Lonesome Eddy and the Bird Dogs, with proceeds to benefit the Leisure Services Scholarship Fund. Feast on the Farm on September 27 will raise funds for Westmoor Park. The Westmoor Park Fiftieth Festival featuring square dancing and a picnic will be held on October 19.
- Sustainability Projects–Helen Rubino-Turco has met with the Sustainability Commission to discuss a plan to develop a wildflower meadow on the hillside near the gardens at Wolcott Park.
- Upcoming Tree Canopy Study–The bid process closes August 8 regarding a project to catalog all trees in West Hartford to assess what trees are needed.

5. Friends of West Hartford Parks Report

- Lisa Karam reported a movie night is planned for Beachland on September 6 (a sponsor is needed). She noted that construction along the Trout Brook Trail is again underway

and the route for the Walk in the Park set for October 26, 2024 will be coordinated with the completion of the extension.

6. **Public Comment**—none.

Meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 23, 2024; location Westmoor Park.

Minutes submitted by Nancy Gierlich.