

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Special Meeting Minutes
July 27, 2026
Elmwood Community Center**

Meeting called to order by Anna Park, President, at 5:38 p.m.

1. **Roll Call and Introductions:**

In Attendance: Mike Fournier, Nancy Gierlich, Lisa Karam, Anna Park and Chris Timmel.

Absent: Patrick Cooney, Steve Garneau, Cara Paiuk.

Staff in Attendance: Helen Rubino-Turco and Marc Blanchard.

There is one opening on the advisory board.

2. **Moment of Silence** to honor Shawn Daly, a member of the advisory board, Chairman of the Republican Town Committee, and active in local nonprofit and civic organizations.

3. **Adoption of May 18, 2026 Minutes** – approved 3-0 (Park abstained).

4. **Old Business:** none.

5. **New Business: Kennedy Park Planning Presentation** by Weston & Sampson

Emily Weckman and Ying Zhang of the design and engineering firm Weston & Sampson in Rocky Hill presented a comprehensive overview of the firm's work in leading an overview of proposed changes to the park. The steps in this process included visiting the park with members of Leisure Services, Public Works, the Tree Action Group, the West Hartford Garden Club, the Assistant Town Engineer, and a local teacher; conducting a survey of town residents for their input and suggestions for the park (463 responses received); and preparing two concept plans for presentation to the public at the special meeting. Additional comments were received directly by the Leisure Services office and considered. Those attending the meeting were encouraged to vote for which plan they favored. A final plan with proposed budget will be submitted for further review, which plan can be implemented over years. *The powerpoint presentation can be viewed on WHCi via YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u-XcwYyqEZM>*

Both concept plans include additional parking, a reduction of the soccer fields from five to three, and a second playground near the soccer and baseball fields. Walking trails and additional landscaping will be featured.

6. **Public Comment** related to Kennedy Park Planning

Several attendees stressed that many local residents walk the park as exercise. For more information on the Elmwood storm water management plan, residents were advised there is a meeting on this at Town Hall on September 10. Bill Gleason of the Tree Action Group noted the town has a record of all 455 trees in the park and new landscaping will be coordinated.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 14, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. at Elmwood Community Center.

Minutes submitted by Nancy Gierlich.