

Torrington Parks and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2022

Chairperson Patricia Fairchild called to order a regular meeting of Torrington Parks and Recreation Commission on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. at the Armory. In attendance were Commissioners Fran Ducotey, Jim Pescatore, Mike Fritch, Casey McKenna, and Public Works Director, Ray Drew.

Chairman Fairchild opened the meeting with announcement of the passing of Superintendent Brett Simmons.

Adoption of Previous Month's Minutes: On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Casey McKenna, the commission voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the November 2, 2022 commission meeting.

Correspondence: Email letter from Paul Summers on behalf of pickle ball at the Armory.

Citizen's Comments: Paul Summers addressed the commission on the possibility of having pickle ball courts at the Armory.

On a motion by Fran Ducotey with a second by Jim Pescatore, the commission voted unanimously to change the order of the agenda putting Facility Operations before the other committee updates.

Facility Operations

1. A discussion was held on the possibility of establishing pickle ball courts at the Armory. Chairperson Fairchild spoke about a meeting the Superintendent Simmons had with various users of the Armory and Jaime Sykora, facilities director. That meeting determined that putting pickle ball courts on the Armory floor would not be feasible at this time because of potential damage to the floor. On a motion by Casey McKenna with a second by Fran Ducotey, the commission voted in favor of the recommendation by the facilities director to not put pickle ball courts in the Armory. Commissioner Fritch abstained.
2. Ray Drew spoke about the process of building the new skate board park. He will recommend Newline to the City Council as the company to build the park. This company received exemplary Reviews from the skate park committee. On a motion by Fran Ducotey with a second by Jim Pescatore the commission voted to recommend Newline as the company to build the skate park. Commissioner Fritch abstained.
3. The proposed renovation of Joe Ruwet Park as previously planned by Brett Simmons will continue. With the probable addition of more land, there are many more possibilities for the use of this property.
4. Ray also reported that the Armory is being turned over to the city for ownership. It has to be used for municipal purposes or it will revert back to the state.

Facility Use

John Ciesco and Ed Wilmot, Registrars of Voters, for Coe Memorial Park and the Armory on September 12 and November 7, 2023 for election purposes. On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Fran Ducotey. The commission voted unanimously to approve.

Programs

- The Annual Appeal held at the Elks went very well. Commissioners Ducotey and Pescatore will check with the Elks on having the appeal next year at the lodge on December 8, 2023 with the village opening on December 10, 2023. Serving of snacks and the cost will be an important point of discussion.
- Christmas Village
 1. Parade was discussed. At this time at least a dozen groups will be marching.
 2. Lorraine Recidivi will sing the National Anthem at the opening ceremony.
 3. Jack Wallace will speak about Carl Bozenski at the opening ceremony.
 4. Ed Cannata has printed a newspaper to be handed out at the village.

Sports: No report

Capital/Budget: Ray will begin work on the budget.

Coe Memorial Park

- No minutes were presented.
- On information previously presented by Brett Simmons, the commission voted unanimously to proceed with the proposed electrical work at Coe Memorial Park with a motion by Fran Ducotey and a second by Jim Pescatore.

Old Business: None

New Business

- 2023 Meeting Schedule: On a motion by Jim Pescatore with a second by Mike Fritch, the commission voted unanimously to accept the proposed meeting calendar for 2023.
- Election of Officers: On a motion Jim Pescatore and a second by Fran Ducotey, the commission voted unanimously to keep the current slate of officers.

Other business: Jim Pescatore announced that Lowe's has donated a refrigerator for the Teen Center.

Adjournment: On a motion by Mike Fritch with a second by Fran Ducotey, the commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:10 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Patricia Fairchild, Chairperson.

