

Hartford Parks and Recreation Commission
Thursday January 13, 2022
5:00 p.m.
Hartford Town Hall
Meetings Minutes

Commission Members in Attendance: Brett Mayfield, David Crocco, Tom McCleary, Allison Childs who arrived at 5:10 p.m. and Michael Vanasse who arrived at 5:20 p.m.

Others in Attendance: Joe Major, Select Board Liaison

Commission Members not in Attendance:

Meeting called to order: 5:05 pm by Brett Mayfield

The December meeting minutes were moved and approved.

Citizen Comments: None

Commission Member Comments: None

Directors Reports for January 7, 2022: Full Directors Reports attached.

Highlights:

Discussion by Commission members on Frost Park skating rink opening. Rink should be open by next week.

Old Business:

Community Center: Discussion from Allison on affordability and a survey focused on a community center.

Pool Project: Update by Joe Major on pool to hopefully be open in the Spring when school is out if all stays on current schedule and on management of pool by outside entity.

New Business:

Vote for Officers
Brett Mayfield, Chair
David Crocco, Vice Chair
Tom McCleary, Secretary

Discussion on Fishing Derby dates and time.

Agenda Items for Next Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting

Community Center

Pool Update

Motion made to adjourn and all accepted.

Adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Next Meeting February 10, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Brett Mayfield, Commission Secretary

Signed By: _____ Dated: _____

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Parks & Recreation Department
Significant Activity Report
January 7th, 2022
Respectfully Submitted By: Scott Hausler, Director

Program and Park Highlights

- The Department Staff at the WABA Arena continue to work hard serving the public at the skating facility. Shane Barnes, our Superintendent of Parks & Facilities continues to receive great customer service satisfaction reports from users of the facility. He reports that staff continue to hear great things about the facilities cleanliness and quality of ice, referencing that our facility is the cleanest rink in the area with the best sheet of ice. This is reiterated almost daily from not only the home teams that use the rink on a weekly basis but from visiting team fans and general public skaters. We are very grateful to our full and part time staff at WABA for excellent work ethic and outstanding customer service.
- The facility had some of our best numbers on record for Public Skate events over the Holiday week with 626 individual visits and 258 skate rentals. New Year's Eve alone had 143 individual visits and 60 skate rentals.
- With some consistent cold weather in the forecast, we have prepped Frost Park for flooding and will hopefully (if the forecast stays as predicted) start flooding the outdoor rink. Without a liner for the rink, we rely primarily on a snow packed boundary, cold freezing temperatures and frost established in the ground.
- R-1, which is one of our main trucks used for park and facility maintenance along with winter plowing blew a transmission. This truck is due for replacement in the proposed FY23 budget. Instead of spending upwards of \$5,000 to \$7,000 for transmission replacement the Department decided to equip the 1-Ton Dump with push plates and controls, retrofitting the truck for our existing plow at a cost of \$2,450. This allowed us to immediately equip this truck and put it in service for plowing of our facilities and park access locations. The R-1 truck will sit idle as we put its replacement plan into place.
- The Parks and Recreation Office was very busy over the last couple weeks despite staff vacation time and the holiday break. Many incoming phone calls were specific to public skating from many vacationers who were staying in the area. We continue to market upcoming programs and activities and have pushed out our New Program Idea, Youth Beatz Drumming Enrichment Program and finalizing details on the upcoming Ice Fishing Derby and RedZone 5K.
- Hartford Parks and Recreation visited the Hartford Area Career and Technology Center on January 4th to meet with the Natural Resources Program Students and Faculty. The students spent several days working on the Hurricane Hill Wildlife Refuge Trails removing limbs, large and small, from the trails after a summer windstorm made havoc of many trails leading up to the postponement of the Hurricane Hill Trail Run last summer. The Natural Resources Students hit the trails working their skills and learning new ones in an effort to help the Department. Downtown Bill Brown volunteered his time to coordinate the cleanup effort and worked with the Students and Natural Resources Instructor Matthew Dragon to prepare the trails for the postponed race that took place in early October. Hartford Parks & Recreation presented a plaque to show appreciation to the students.
- Youth sport programs were limited to practices over the break and will began a weekly schedule of practices and games starting the week of January 3rd.