

CHATHAM PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
8-18-2020 6:15 PM through Google Meet

in Attendance: Kevin Weldon, Vance Pitkin, Mike West, Anita Fiorillo, Judi Matthews, Alan Meier, Jesse Ortiz, Jay Thorn, Betsy Winters-Russell

1. Kevin called the meeting to order and welcomed Vance Pitkin as the second representative from the Town Board, replacing John Wapner.
2. Report from Mike West
 - A. Nick Baccaro, the maintenance man, has been rehired, which is allowing Mike to spend a lot of time on the trails project. There is a volunteer work party scheduled for Thursday, 8/20/20 from 3-5 p.m. to work on the connector to PS21. Mike also has a scheduled meeting with Supervisor Collins and Abi Mesick for Wednesday, 8/19/20 to discuss their offer of small equipment to help with the work. Mike has also had an offer from a Boy Scout troop – 8 members, 2 leaders – to help with the trails project. He is also thinking about brush clearing the hedge on the hillside between the Park and PS21.
 - B. Chatham Reds' last game of the summer season was scheduled for Tuesday, 8/18/20. After that, they will be practicing weekly until the fall ball season starts.

The Front Pavilion sheetrocking is on track for completion mid-September.

Playgrounds are scheduled to re-open shortly. The State has no qualms about their use.

Several big trees came down during the large storm the week of 8/9/20 and Mike has been working to remove the debris.

Mike has developed an application form for the use of the Park. Anita/Jesse will try to make it available as a fillable PDF on the Park website. It will also be available in printed form at Town Hall. There was discussion about how best to advertise the availability of this form: Face Book, Instagram, the Town website, the Recreation website. Applications for Park use will have to be approved by a Resolution of the Board. It will take a couple of weeks to be approved.

Mike is proposing that a maze be developed at the Park. In the summer it can be a mowed maze and in the winter – if there is snow- it can be created with a snowblower. Jesse and Jay will be at the Park on Sunday 8/23/20 to do drone photos of the Trail project and perhaps could do some shots to use for laying out a maze as well.
3. Report from Jay Thorn
 - A. The skateboard park took an extra weekend to complete. Still to do – install the pole for the security light. A banner thanking donors will also be installed.
 - B. Gunther Fishgold of Tierra Farms is a strong supporter of the Park and is helping fund the Fitness Trail project. CARP is working hard to keep him happy and engaged in the Park.
 - C. Jesse Ortiz offered to create a short commercial for the Fitness Trail which could be posted on Instagram and possibly other social media locations. Mike is working to expand the relationship with PS21.
4. Other Park Events/Business
 - A. Crellin Park Day 2021 - Suggested date is Saturday, August 7, 2021. Al Meier will talk to Sideshow Willie about booking the band for that date. Kevin will start to think about food trucks.

Anita will talk to the food truck that works in the parking lot at Golden Harvest – excellent pulled pork and brisket sandwiches.

B. Ribbon cutting ceremony for the Pavilion – This could incorporate the official opening of the updated Skate Park. Joe Rickert and staff should be thanked for the work they put in on both projects. Jesse suggested it be livestreamed on the Park FaceBook page. And on the CARP Instagram page. Betsy volunteered to help.

C. Park Plan – John Wapner is finishing up the draft. Anita will reach out to him with information about the artificial ice option for skating.

5. Planning Ahead for Winter

Kevin spoke about a dance event at PS21 scheduled for the weekend of Sept. 18-19. They would appreciate some people volunteering to act as greeters. Kevin, Vance, Judi, Joel, Jay all volunteered.

Need to pick a date and announce snowshoeing and cross-country skiing – weather permitting. Also need to schedule a Winter Fest with an icemaker, snow sculptures, hot chocolate and a bonfire, etc.

Mike would like to promote a Polar Plunge. It's a good fund raising opportunity. Could probably get the Chatham Brewery involved. Al Meier said he would reach out to the Hudson Lions and get information about their Polar Plunge.

The Children's Garden needs to be cleaned up and shut down for the winter. Betsy, Judi and Anita volunteered to work on this and to see if the Special Needs group of kids from the school would like to help as they did last year. That would mean the clean-up would take place on a weekday. The Special Needs kids are scheduled to be at the school every weekday. Judi will inquire.

6. The next meeting of the committee will be on Tuesday, September 15, 2021 at 6:15 P.M.