

## **Killingworth Park and Recreation Commission Minutes Special Meeting August 23, 2021**

The Killingworth Park and Recreation Commission held a special meeting on Monday, August 23, 2021 via Gotomeeting.com and in-person at Sheldon Park.

Present: Jim Duffield (Chair), Bill Burley, Donna Clark, Chris Smalley, Jeremy Burr, Cheryl DeFilippo (Recording Secretary). Also present were visitors Cooper and Cindy Pitts and Jacque and Don Wilcox

Absent: Brian Blair, Glenn Johnson

1. **Call to Order**: Chairman Jim Duffield called the meeting to order at 7:31pm
2. **Welcome New Member**: Jim introduced Jeremy Burr, a new KPR Commission member.
3. **Approval of Minutes**: A motion was made by Donna to approve the Minutes of the July 12<sup>th</sup> meeting; Chris seconded the motion. No discussion followed and the motion was unanimously approved. Jeremy abstained as he was not yet a Commission member on July 12<sup>th</sup>.
4. **Visitors**: Jacque and Don Wilcox submitted the following list for consideration by the Commission:
  - \*Clean courts – vegetation, dirt/sand, mold/mildew, algae. In addition, the west side tennis court is cracking and expelling sand
  - \*Repaint the Pickleball court lines (as needed)
  - \*Install screening fabric to help (a) reduce street noise; (b) reduce wind; and (c) aid visibility
  - \*Increase height of baseball backstop to reduce (a) danger to players; and (b) damage to autos
  - \*Request future consideration of repurposing Bethke Field for dedicated Pickleball Courts

Jacque's memorandum to the Commission states: "Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in America. Sheldon Park court has given seniors a place to gather to learn a new game, have fun, get excellent exercise for mind and body, and socialize in a group of typically 8 to 26 players. Pickleball has proven to be an excellent transition sport for many tennis, handball, and ping pong players. Yet, even without an athletic background, it is an easy sport to learn and love to play."

The discussion focused on the Jacque's list. The town previously received a grant to build the tennis courts, but no one has researched grant funding for maintenance/repairs. Donna stated it would cost about \$6,500 to redo the courts, including new surfacing and repair to the asphalt seams.

The discussion turned to the possibility of installing Pickleball courts at Auer KRP. The issue becomes who would be willing to pay for what (town funds vs. taxpayer dollars).

Jacque mentioned the seniors who currently utilize the tennis courts would be willing to volunteer their time and energy to help. She specifically mentioned removing vegetation, mold/mildew removal.

Jim stated the Commission will take the requests under consideration and Donna reassured Jacque that the Commission recognizes the importance of senior activities. The discussion ended and the Wilcoxes departed the meeting.

Cooper Pitts is currently a Boy Scout looking for an Eagle Project. He and his mother, Cindy, wanted to attend the meeting to reach out to the Commission for ideas. The discussion focused on (1) the disc golf project brought up by Rob Lemire (excerpt from May 10<sup>th</sup> Minutes: Rob is enthusiastic about the [disc golf] activity and is also interested in expanding the courses to utilize more of the open space and provide beginner levels which would encourage more people to engage in the sport. Jim requested a design outlining the space usage, entry/exit in relation to current courses, safety guidelines, etc.), as well as (2)

the bridge project at Auer Field that is still unfinished. Jim suggested Cooper reach out to Rob for an update on these two projects. Jim will also contact the Eagle Scout Master.

Jim also mentioned the unfinished business of trail markers, and possibly adding additional trails at Auer Park (also mentioned in May 10<sup>th</sup> Minutes) as possible ideas for Cooper's project.

Bill supplemented the list of ideas by adding the possibility of working on the kiosk at Auer KRP as another Eagle Scout project idea.

The general consensus was it would make the best sense to "piggy back" onto existing projects to bring them to completion than to come up with a brand new project.

Donna asked Cooper how many hours he intends to allocate for his project. Cooper responded he will have 8 scouts working for a couple of days (weekends, 5-6 hours each). Cindy reminded the Commission the project focusses on building leadership skills, including organizing workers and fundraisers to support the project)

Jim mentioned various benches at the town's fields and how some are in a state of disrepair. It would be idea to have benches to sit down at the fields, playscapes to watch kids. The Commission may be able to get some people to help the Scouts if this were to become part of Cooper's project.

The Pitts' departed the meeting.

## 5. **Communications, Bills, and Applications**

### Applications:

Patrick Vivero- Connecticut Adult Soccer League (CASL) requesting Auer KRP, Sundays from 8/15-10/10, 8:00am-10:00am, every-other-week.

HK Rec Dept. - requesting Pavilion at Sheldon Park:

Running Rams, Tuesdays 9/14-10/12, 5:30pm-6:30pm (walking paths/trails)

Creative Art, Tuesdays 9/14-9/28, 4:15pm-5:30pm (Pavilion)

Zumba Kids, Thursdays 9/23-10/14, 4:15pm-5:15pm (Pavilion)

Wizards School, Wednesday 9/22, 4:00pm-5:00pm (Pavilion)

HKYFA Football and Cheerleading requesting Auer KRP Field 1 and Practice Field, August-October, M-F 5:00-8:00pm

HKYFA Football requesting Sundays in September and October, 7:00am-6:00pm for football games

A motion was made by Donna to approve the applications and Bill Burley seconded the motion. No discussion followed and the motion was unanimously approved.

### **The following bills were received:**

Eversource: June (Sheldon) \$145.70; (Auer KRP) \$218.09

Eversource: July (Sheldon) \$118.24; (Auer KRP) \$156.32

Olson Sanitation: July \$650; August \$650

Pete Cumpstone Gate-keeping: July (Auer KRP) \$310

Anthony Carri Gate-keeping: July (Sheldon) \$310

Sweitzer: June (Sheldon) \$84.39; (Rocco) \$34.76; (Auer KRP) \$64.51; (Bethke) \$19.88

Drainscapes, LLC: 4,552 (mowing for all fields) brush pile removal around all fields

Langer mowing: July (Sheldon, Rocco, Bethke) \$1,250.00

A motion was made by Bill to approve the applications and Donna seconded the motion. No discussion followed and the motion was unanimously approved.

6. **Treasurer's Report**. A Treasurer's Report was not available.
7. **Old Business**  
**Parks and Field Maintenance**  
Sheldon Park – Jim stated the irrigation system malfunctioned  
Rocco Field – There are many open items to discuss at a later meeting  
Bethke Field – Nothing to report  
Eric W. Auer Killingworth Recreational Park (KRP) – An motor vehicle accident occurred where someone drove into a rock wall. Jim will reach out to Troop F to obtain a copy of the report. There is damage to a split rail fence that also needs to be addressed.
8. **New Business**: Jeremy Burr was introduced earlier as the newest Commission member.
9. **Adjournment**: Bill made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:23pm.

The next meeting of the Commission is Monday, September 13, 2021

Respectfully submitted,  
Cheryl DeFilippo, Recording Secretary