

Killingworth Parks and Recreation Commission
Special meeting
July 15,2024
Emergency Operations Center, Killingworth, CT

1.Call to Order: Jim called the meeting to order at 7:32pm. Present: All members were present, Jim Duffield (Chair), Donna Clark, Bill Burley, Jeremy Burr, Glenn Johnson, Chris Swiss and Chris Smalley.

2.Visitors: There were no visitors.

3.Public Comment: There was no public comment.

4.Approval of the Minutes: *Glenn made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2024 Regular Meeting, Bill seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

5.Communications, Bills and Applications:

Applications

1. HK Soccer, request for field #2 at Eric Auer, 7/15-8/24, m-f am, weekend evenings
2. HKLL, request for all Sheldon fields, 8/1-10/31, m-f, 4pm-dusk, weekends 9am-6pm
3. Shoreline Breakers, request for Sheldon fields, 7/15-11/16, evenings

***Chris Swiss made a motion to approve the applications with the stipulation that HKLL has priority in schedule over the Shoreline Breakers, Chris Smalley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

Bills

1. Sweitzer: Sheldon, \$177.02
Rocco, \$119.90
Auer, \$177.02
Bethke,\$67.20
2. Anthony Carri, Sheldon gatekeeping, \$300.00 June
Kristen LaViola, Auer gatekeeping, \$300.00 June
3. Langer Landscape, Sheldon mowing, \$2,125.71, June
4. Drainscapes, Auer mowing, \$2,987.32, (#8 of 8)
5. Eversource: Auer \$53.25
Sheldon \$114.74
6. Clean Restroom Rental, Inc.: Auer \$225.50
Sheldon \$205.00

***Glenn made a motion to approve the bills and Chris Smalley seconded the motion. There was discussion as Jim had more to add.**

7. Jim Duffield, repayment for the following purchases:
 - Tennis nets at Sheldon, \$488.62
 - hardware, \$100.29
 - weed spray, \$23.02
 - fuses for irrigation, \$15.18

***The motion passed unanimously.**

- Discussed planning to add more restrooms at Auer beginning Sept. 1
- HK Pickleball clinic will use Sheldon Park on 7/24
- It has been observed that older teenagers have been loitering at the Sheldon Park playground, using equipment inappropriately, possibly resulting in the recent vandalism. Discussed was the possibility of installing a new sign informing users of proper age guidelines for equipment use.
- Chris Smalley provided mulch for Auer/ Sheldon and will provide an invoice.

6.Treasurer's Report: Report was not provided this month.

7.Old Business

- Sweitzer still under contract
- Auer pavilion numbers soon, out to bid to 8/9
- climbing wall at Sheldon repaired and installed
- slide and other equipment replaced and repaired
- clean-up day at Sheldon playground is planned for 7/20, 9am
- the extra much at Auer will be moved to Sheldon but may need additional
- the Lions Club will disassemble and clean and reassemble the fire truck
- The Sheldon irrigation system needs repair, replacing the ACC controller which should last ten years, the obtained quote is for \$4,200.00.

***Glenn made a motion to approve funds, \$4,200.00, to repair the irrigation system at Sheldon, Chris Swiss seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

- Auer field project, date of completion is 9/9/2024. Work has yet to begin.
- Mowing contracts: Drainscapes has reported a 5% increase and Langer, a 6% increase for next year.
- Pickleball Court Project:

There was a discussion regarding HK Little League's concerns related to constructing the pickleball courts at Sheldon Park adjacent to the center field fence and next to the basketball court. HKLL cited potential issues with fitting the courts in allotted space, increased parking needs and the need to install safety screens and/or netting.

***Chris Smalley made a motion to approve the location of the four asphalt pickleball courts to be at the Rocco Reale site between the baseball field and rt. 81. Chris Swiss seconded the motion. Discussion followed.**

There was a continuation of the discussion regarding the proposed Sheldon Park site. In order to construct the courts, there would be the need for extra work and costs including demolition of existing pad and walkway, repositioning and building of walkway, adding catch basins and piping for drainage. A higher 8ft fence and screen/netting would be required to provide safety from baseballs. There was a consideration based on recent observation that the proposed area in the park is often used as a spot for games, bike riding, scooters etc.

It was noted that a pickleball user group recently conducted an informal survey regarding potential court sites. With twenty people responding, the vote was 18-2 for court placement at the Sheldon Park site. The discussion also acknowledged that there are others including families and young adults not associated with that group which utilize the current pickleball courts.

Also noted was that the \$125,000.00 to be used for construction comes from the town's capital fund. The issue of cost and material used for courts was discussed and it was noted that the current pricing per Hinding Tennis Courts is \$20.00 square foot for asphalt and \$40.00 square foot for post tension concrete.

Also noted was that the Rocco Reale site allows for construction without the added costs which the Sheldon site would require.

***The motion passed with a 6-1 vote, no abstentions.**

The drawings and specs are complete. Glenn will work with town officials on other general issues, apply to the Wetlands Commission for clearance at the August meeting with potential approval in September. It would then go to bid in the fall with a probability of completion in the spring, 2025.

***Bill made a motion to adjourn at 8:43pm.**

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Clark