

Town of Chester
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Minutes of the Meeting of the Chester Park and Recreation Commission

These minutes are subject to Commission approval.

Wednesday, October 24, 2018
Chester Town Hall
Conference Room C
7:00pm

Call to Order

John Williams called the meeting to order. Ivey seconded. Meeting began at 7:04pm.

Members Present

Dawn Saunders, John Williams, Ivey Gianetti, John Saunders, Kurt Ziemann, Deron Grabel

Members Absent

Michael Abramson

Also in Attendance:

Kenna Campbell, Elizabeth Netsch

Audience of Citizens

Randolph Netsch

Minutes of the Special Meeting on September 26, 2018

Ivey moved to accept the minutes from last meeting. Kurt seconded. The Commission moved to accept the minutes.

Election of a Chairman

Ivey made a motion to nominate Michael Abramson as Chairman. Dawn seconded the motion. The Commission accepted the motion.

John Saunders nominated John Williams as Vice Chairman. Ivey seconded the motion. The Commission agreed.

Director's Report:

Meeting Dates for 2019

Elizabeth asked that meetings not be on Wednesdays. John Williams asked if we could have them on Wednesdays. The Commission discussed. Everyone agreed to meet on



Mondays. They discussed the need to have 6 meetings a year with one additional meeting for the budget. Elizabeth asked if we could move the meeting earlier. John Saunders mentioned 6:30pm would work. The Commission agreed to meet at 6:30pm on Mondays. The months mentioned for the meetings are January 14th, March 4th, April 29th, May 20th, September 16th, and October 28th. Deron motioned the accept these dates, Kurt seconded. The Commission moved to accept the dates.

Volunteer Coach Training

Elizabeth started the discussion of all coaches and employees be CPR and First Aid certified within one year. Dawn brought up the fact that she thinks coaches should be certified before the season because they might not coach the following year, meaning they do not have it the year they are coaching. Commission discussed the policy stating that coaches must be certified within one year of coaching and changing it so that coaches must be certified before they start coaching. John Williams proposed a new policy stating that going forward from this meeting, all employees, referees and volunteer coaches need to be CPR and First Aid Certified. Ivey motions to accept this policy change and John Saunders seconds it. The Commission moves to accept.

Flood Damage

Elizabeth mentioned that Cedar Lake suffered some damage from the storms that occurred this year. Elizabeth will continue to find out through the selectman how we can fund the replacement sand we need in the Spring.

North Quarter Park

Elizabeth brought up North Quarter Park and the latest updates pertaining to the park. John Williams asked for clarification of what each spot on the diagram will be for. Elizabeth showed the Commission pictures of what to expect with the equipment. Elizabeth informed the Commission of how much money will be available for the project at North Quarter. The priority is taking the Big Toy down as a whole and replace the swing set. No further questions or concerns were brought up to the design at this time. Elizabeth did meet with the Rotary and Conservation Committee and Rotary is in full support of this and Elizabeth thinks we can fundraise for the boardwalk because of the large support from the community we are receiving already. John Williams expanded the discussion to look at a more broadened area. He discussed each specific spot with the Commission.

Elizabeth asks that we add the discussion of a young girl playing on a boys' team to the agenda. John Saunders moved to add this to our agenda. Dawn seconded the motion. This was added to our agenda. Elizabeth sent an email prior to this meeting about a young girl who wants to play on the 2nd and 3rd grade team. There were two concerns; will the boys be uncomfortable with playing with her and is she at the same skill level

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as the boys. From what we have heard from her prior coaches, she exceeds the level of the boys and would be able to hold her own. There is a policy stating that if there is a team for the age, gender, and in the town, they have to play for that team. Randolph was called on to give his input with his coaching experience. He mentioned that coaches take into consideration the size of people playing and the physical ability of the people when putting together a team, not the gender of the person. John Williams mentioned that people might have particular reactions to her not being allowed on the team or being allowed on the team, but because of the times we are in, we should not consider gender in this situation, more the skill and size of the person, on a case by case situation. John Saunders argued that as long as the individual is physically able and that there is no risk of injury, this discussion should be presented to the other towns with letters of recommendation of the ascending and receiving coaches and parents of the player. If a child would like to participate in an athletic activity outside of their gender or age-level, a letter of request signed by a parent or guardian, ascending coach, and receiving coach must be submitted to the Park and Recreation Commission. John Saunders moved to accept the policy and Ivey seconded the motion. The Commission accepted the motion.

Chairman's Report

There was nothing to report.

Adjournment

Ivey motioned to adjourn the meeting. The Commission moved to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kenna M. Campbell
Secretary