

**Town of Hamden
Town Center Park Commission
Minutes for Regular Meeting
Monday, January 25th, 2021
4:45 pm**

1/25/2021 - Minutes

1. Call To Order

Chairman Fitch called the meeting to order at 4:47pm.

2. Attendance

Attending: Matt Fitch, Chairman; Victor Mitchell; Gerry Tobin; Mike D'Andrea; Jessica Hazan

Absent: N/A

Also in Attendance: Alisha Martindale; Liana Paglia, Commission Clerk

3. Approval Of Past Minutes

Ms. Tobin made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. D'Andrea seconded. All were in favor.

4. Chairman's Report

Chairman Fitch explained to commissioners that he does not anticipate any summer park events this year. He is hopeful that by September, it is possible to hold outdoor events. Chairman Fitch proposed hosting a TCP sanctioned outdoor, charity event. He has spoken to a representative from the Smilow Cancer Center in New Haven, who has expressed interest in a potential partnership. The park is now connected to the Farmington Canal, which opens up the possibility of a charity/awareness walk. Chairman Fitch also suggested a survivors' picnic, in honor of the cancer patients' staff and caregivers. He would like this potential TCP event to be an agenda item for the February 22nd, 2021 meeting.

Chairman Fitch opened the floor for questions and comments. Ms. Tobin asked if this TCP event would be in conjunction with the food truck festival. Chairman Fitch explained the two events would be separate. At this time, he is wary that the food truck festival will be held, due to Covid-19 restrictions. He also raised the point that some food trucks may have closed as a result of the pandemic. Chairman Fitch anticipates 2022 as a more ideal time to hold a food truck festival. Mr. Mitchell suggested holding the TCP event in conjunction with the Free Ride event held in September. Chairman Fitch explained that he wants this TCP event to be singular and distinct. Ms. Hazan suggested partnering with the Hamden Food Bank, perhaps in conjunction with the Food Truck Festival. Chairman Fitch expressed interest in this potential partnership and asked Ms. Hazan to flesh out her idea and discuss her findings during the February meeting. Ms. Martindale noted that there were plans in place to host a wagon walk as part of Silver Bells, in which participants could donate food and "walk their wagon" on the Farmington Canal en route to the middle school. Unfortunately, these plans were cancelled as a result of the rollback to Phase 2 Covid-19 restrictions. Chairman Fitch anticipates that it will be possible to hold more outdoor and indoor events in Fall 2021. Mr. Mitchell noted that this past year his volunteer fire fighting company combined their food drive with a toy drive. He explained that cash donations are used to purchase gift cards, which are then distributed to those in need. Chairman Fitch expressed interest in hearing more about the food/toy drive idea at February's meeting.

5. Old Business

Chairman Fitch believes there will be few event requests this year.

6. New Business

6.I. Potential Joint Meeting/ Forum With Parks & Recreation Commission

The clerk, Ms. Paglia, also clerks the Parks and Recreation commission meetings. They have expressed interest in holding a joint meeting/forum with the TCP commission. There was some discussion amongst the commissioners in regards to potential joint meeting days. Chairman Fitch asked Ms. Paglia to communicate with the Parks and Recreation chairman in regards to scheduling.

She also noted that Adam Matlock, who has spoken at previous meetings, is interested in doing a walkthrough with one or more of the commissioners prior to Spring. Chairman Fitch offered several possible dates and asked Ms. Paglia to coordinate the walkthrough.

7. Adjournment

Chairman Fitch requested a motion to adjourn at 5:15pm. Ms. Tobin made a motion to adjourn, to which Ms. Hazan seconded. All were in favor.

Submitted by: Liana Paglia, Commission Clerk

DRAFT