TOWN OF SIMSBURY – CULTURE, PARKS, AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Subject to Vote of Approval – Regular Meeting Minutes – **Thursday, September 24, 2026** – 3 pages

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Kelly Kearney, Vice Chairman, in the main meeting room at Town Hall. Other commission members who were present included Lori Coppinger, Liz Keppel (via telephone), Chris Boswell, Trevor Brittell and Kelly Kearney. The C. P. & R. Director Tom Tyburski and Board of Selectmen Liaison, Curtis Looney were also in attendance.

Mr. Kearney made a motion to add J.C Diaz' Eagle Scout presentation to the agenda; Mr. Brittell seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission Member Comments

Mr. Kearney shared that he believes in continuous improvement and you can't improve unless you're willing to listen, which means being open to dissenting views and having ways to measure how you're doing, i.e. surveys, evaluations, etc. He also shared that he believes in integrity which to him means if there is a conflict or even the appearance of one, it should be recognized, recusing oneself when appropriate and doing the right thing. Finally, he shared that he strongly believes in setting goals as goals give direction. However, goals require commitment. He stated that serving on the Commission requires time and effort. He shared that he knows people have many other responsibilities (jobs, families, etc.) and stated that there is nothing wrong with stepping aside and allowing someone else who has time to contribute and to put in the effort to achieve the goals.

Presentation

J.C. Diaz shared that his Eagle Scout project is the rebuilding of the soccer bounce back wall at Curtiss Park. He shared that his main goal is to create a durable wall that can stand for 30 years and be a fun addition to the park. Tomorrow he will be picking up the debris from the site and taking it to the dump. He would like to have it done in the next 2-3 weeks. He is fundraising for the project and will hopefully be getting a discount on the purchased material. Mr. Tyburski will email out a link to his GoFundMe.

Agenda Items

Minutes – Approval of June 2026 meeting minutes- Mr. Kearney declared the June 2026 minutes approved and requested that they be put on record.

End of Summer Aquatics Review- Mr. Tyburski shared pool passes, and swim lessons were up 10%. 678 swim lessons offered along with numerous special events over the summer that had over 500 participants. The Neon Night event held at the pool had over 300 attendees. He shared that they are going to be looking at a two hour morning swim lessons block next year. They are also going to consider offering an after-work swim lesson period. The Goddard School was heavily involved in some community events this year. Maintenance staff will be conducting some repair work to the plaster of the pool walls this spring.

End of Summer Camps and Programs- Mr. Tyburski shared that Ms. Huysman oversaw the day camps and adventure camps this year. Adventure Camp sold out for 30-40 kids each week during the summer, Camp Stuff Ta Doo was filled with 110 kids each week. The summer rugby program at the high school was very popular with 30-40 kids for the first time and they are already planning for next year. They held a few programs at

Latimer Lane and they were very accommodating and will be looking into moving more programs over there next year.

End of Summer Blast Event Wrap Up- Mr. Tyburski shared they had a great set up and great band even though the weather was a challenge due to rain. Ethel Walker was the presenting sponsor; all the food vendors have committed to next year as well. The firework show was fantastic. They estimate the attendance at about 3500. Mr. Tyburski thanked Mr. Johnson for his hard work cleaning up after the event and thanked Mr. Kearney for his time helping develop the event and creating community partnerships. Mr. Kearney thanked Mr. Tyburski for making the time to create these partnerships and coming up with creative ideas.

Golf Course Cart Path and Drainage Project Update- Mr. Tyburski shared that this project is close to going out to bid, it is in the final review process with the Town engineers and architect, bids will go out in October and the project will hopefully be completed by early May. The project would be building cart paths at 1, 10, 8, and extensions on 17/18.

Misc. Sign Projects Update- Mr. Tyburski shared that a sign is going to be installed at Orkil Field and Curtiss Park is getting two wood signs replaced as well. An LED messaging sign will be installed at Simsbury Farms, near the stop sign, it will have a pillar on either side and will create awareness about upcoming programs and golf/swim presales, closures, and recognizing community partnerships. The sign will only be on during operating hours. They are waiting for the final approval to come back from the office and will hopefully be installed in the early winter. The sign is a partnership between the Friends of Simsbury Farms and the Town.

Ms. Boswell asked what the feedback has been regarding Birdie & the Barrel at the Simsbury Farms Golf Course. Mr. Tyburski shared that they have had a lot of equipment break downs and have had to do a lot of repairs, however they have been doing well with building relationships with the leagues and outings. He shared that they are seeing a lot of "non-golfers" which is fantastic. He thinks the food quality is good and prices are reasonable. Potential opportunities for them being open during the holidays or weekends in the winter were discussed.

Ms. Boswell asked if the speed bumps will be taken down since summer is over. Mr. Tyburksi shared that the speed bumps will come down before winter. He also shared that the plan is to dredge the #15 pond so next spring the pond aerator could be replaced.

Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission Goal Setting and Member Engagement Initiative- Mr. Tyburski shared that he is very fortunate that everyone comes to the meetings and has different prospectives and ideas and while he does a major portion of the talking, he would like the commission to have some goals and some feedback for what they would like to see happen in the Town. He would suggest that the Commission have a meeting where they just talk about goals, identify their desired initiatives and discuss what they would like to see happen in Town. He shared that the Principal at Latimer Lane is a tremendous leader and he is willing to come to the next meeting and facilitate a goal setting session. He hopes the Commission can become more involved and come out to the events and be excited about things that are happening. He will get something out to the group about it before the next meeting.

Adjourn

Ms. Coppinger made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Brittell seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Simsbury Culture, Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for Thursday, October 22, 2026 at 6:00pm at the Town Hall Main Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Taylor,
Commission Clerk