

**MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE TOWN COUNCIL ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2016, AT 7:00 P.M., ROOM 207,
TOWN HALL, 85 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE CT 06410**

Present

Patti Flynn-Harris, Chairman; Paul Bowman, Tim Slocum

Staff: Lou Zullo, Ramona Burkey, and Bob Ceccolini

Town Attorney: Al Smith

Others Present:

Ramona Burkey, Director Cheshire Public Library

The Clerk called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The group pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

2. ROLL CALL

The clerk called the roll and a quorum was determined to be present.

3. TOBACCO-FREE PARKS ORDINANCE PROPOSAL

Mr. Ceccolini, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that at the last meeting the Committee asked the Town Attorney to draft an ordinance for tobacco-free parks. The Chairman confirmed that the members received the draft ordinance from the Town Attorney.

The Chairman indicated that the Police Department is on board with this ordinance. She also indicated she is pleased that the ordinance includes vaping. There was discussion about how the fines were determined, Mr. Ceccolini said that the fees are based on the state's fines and the fines will increase in accordance with the state.

Tim Slocum asked if this ordinance would include an event where someone is paying for rental of park. Patti Flynn-Harris replied yes.

MOTION Mr. Slocum, seconded by Mr. Bowman.

MOVED to forward the proposed ordinance to the Town Council.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

4. ALCOHOL USE AT SPECIAL EVENTS AT TOWN FACILITIES

Ms. Burkey presented. The Chairman stated that we do not have a written ordinance yet but she has spoken to the Town Manager and he would like clarification as to whether the policy is specifically for fund raisers and not holiday parties.

Mr. Bowman asked if a non-profit organization wanted to post an art show, would that be precluded. Ms. Burkey asked the Town Attorney for clarification. Town resident Michael O'Donnel asked if the ordinance would include the high school. The Committee members stated that the schools have a separate policy.

After a lengthy discussion, a decision was made by consensus that this would be treated as a policy. Committee members suggested that Ms. Burkey return at a future meeting to address questions such as which facilities would be included and which forms would be signed.

5. SPONSORSHIP POLICY

Mr. Ceccolini, Parks and Recreation Director, suggested that the town implement a sponsorship policy. This would be a good way to generate income by obtaining funding from outside sources; by selling banners with a potential to have a vendor name on it. This policy would allow the town to advertise for it on the town website, have a list of vendors sent out to local businesses and set rates. Mr. Ceccolini distributed an example from the town of Branford. Mr. Slocum inquired would this ordinance contemplate fields in a residential area and should the policy address that. Town Attorney stated there are regulations regarding residential areas and signs.

It was agreed by consensus that this policy be moved to the Town Council.

6. SENIOR CENTER MEMBERSHIP ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Chairman that the Ordinance Committee is officially recognizing that there is an association called the Cheshire Senior Center Membership Organization. By recognizing them as a Friend's group to the Senior Center, they will be given an acknowledgement to their right to disburse funds that they collect thru their fundraisers without having them come thru the budget committee and the Town Council.

Ms. Ferrell questioned whether the Membership Association could still advertise in their newsletter about donating directly to Senior Center and to the Friends of the Library and the Committee agreed. The Committee clarified that a donation to the Membership Association goes directly into their account; a donation to the Senior Center goes into the town hall gift account.

The Chairman asked if anyone on the board or anyone in attendance had a comment. There were no comments.

Decision was made by consensus of this committee to recommend this policy to Town Council for approval.

7. DISCUSSION RE: BLIGHT ORDINANCE

There was an extensive discussion about this ordinance and its pros and cons. The Committee made the suggestion to look at neighboring towns ordinances and whether this ordinance would be more effective as a zoning regulation. Town Attorney advised the Committee that it would be more enforceable as an ordinance. Discussion continued regarding how to phrase it, the roles of the Fire and Health Departments, and the series of enforcements before taking final action. The members asked Mr. Zullo to have his staff call the town of Southington to inquire how they handle enforcement issues and report at the next meeting. The Chairman asked the Town Attorney to draft an ordinance to be discussed at the next meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Slocum; seconded by Mr. Bowman

MOVED to adjourn at 8:16 p.m.

VOTE The motion passed unanimously by those present.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Izzo