

# PLEASE SUPPORT THE PLAYGROUND!

We, the undersigned residents of Mansfield, petition the Town Council to provide in-kind and/or financial support for the Mansfield Community Playground so that it can be built in the Fall of 2015. We believe that this project will benefit our community by bringing people together to meet and share ideas, and we believe that it is a sound investment in the future of Mansfield.

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
LISA JAHN	199 MULBERRY RD MANS. CT.	<i>Lisa Jahn</i>
Erin Kirdzik	272 Bassett's Bridge Mansfield CT	<i>Erin Kirdzik</i>
Kelly Garceau	169 Stafford Rd Mansfield CT	<i>Kelly Garceau</i>
Melissa Sheard	42 Lodi Dr Storrs CT 06268	<i>M Sheard</i>
Emily Shull	125 Wildwood Rd Storrs CT	<i>E Shull</i>
Ryosuke Hattori	294 Foster Dr.	<i>Ryosuke Hattori</i>
JARED HOLT	146 MOULTON RD STORRS, CT	<i>Jared Holt</i>

**Mansfield Residents**  
Town initiative for your consideration

February 23, 2015

We are so excited to play at new playground at community center. We have been looking for a playground that both my girls, Serena who is 9 and uses wheelchair to transfer and Ilene is 6, can "get in" and "play".

Most times all I can do just sit there with Serena and watch Ilene playing "all by herself" and Ilene can only play some of the equipment, because the grass or wood chip are not good for pushing wheelchair, so Ilene can only play the equipment that I can see her.

Moreover, most playgrounds are designed for those kids, like Ilene, nothing for Serena. They told me the new playground will have something Serena can play too. I just can not wait to take my both girls to new playground and have fun.

Peilan

1: Introduce "family" - Serena 9 @ Goodwin  
Ilene 6  
2 The impact playground would have on whole family

Arthur A. Smith  
74 Mulberry Road  
Mansfield, CT 06250

Mansfield Town Council

March 9, 2015

Dear Town Council Members:

Included in tonight's packet is 1989 contract between the Town of Mansfield and the University of Connecticut. Also included is a recent letter from the Town Manager Matthew Hart to the University of Connecticut asking to modify that agreement.

At issue here, is whether at any time the 1989 contract( page 30 ) was modified to allow for the inclusion of other entities to which the Town of Mansfield would be responsible for providing the cost of pumping and maintenance?

If not, were additional entities serviced by the Town of Mansfield after the new expanded pumping station was built, what entities were serviced, for how long and at what cost to the town?

When did the Town Council approve of this expansion of service after the original contract?

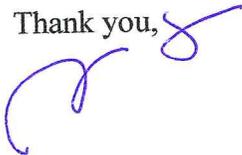
Without Town Council approval how does the Town Finance Department have authorization to issue payments?

On another note, the Mansfield Tomorrow draft plans are now being formed into final proposals and after much work, it is anticipated that the Parks and Recreation Department will be developing a Master Plan. Presumably, that plan will address the needs of all of Mansfield children and Adults in the area, one hopes that it would provide a comprehensive plan of inclusion for all populations in the town. Addressing more than just play space but creating an environment for social engagement with "Circle of Friends" inclusion strategies, "You Can Say You Can't Play" guidelines for the younger children and no bullying workshops for older students and to address self identify and suicide prevention, and how to include senior adults into the playground socialscape.

The Playground is a great community effort, but more planning is needed to see where it fits into long-term planning for the leisure activities of young and old in town. Kudos to all who have worked so hard to date, it's the foot work for the bigger picture. Dr. Raynor is right given the amount of money needed it needs more time for consideration,

& playground, perhaps, for over \$400,000

Thank you,



Sports  
safety

LGBT ISSUES

park

Internal Memorandum

TO: Matthew W. Hart, Town Manager  
FROM: Department Heads  
DATE: March 9, 2015  
SUBJECT: Town Council Meetings

As municipal employees, we understand that our work will be scrutinized by the public, and rightly so. We welcome constructive review of our collective efforts so that we can provide the best possible service to the Town, understanding that not everyone will agree with all our actions or decisions.

We recognize the importance of public scrutiny, and wholeheartedly concur with the Council's policy of allowing public comment during their regular meetings. However, there has been a disturbing trend towards misuse of the opportunity for public comment. Members of the public have used this time as an opportunity for personal attack and intimidation. In addition, tones of disrespect, jeering, and disorderly conduct have become regular occurrences throughout Council meetings. The behavior has recently reached a level that has caused some employees to be concerned for their safety. The Town Council Rules of Procedure (Rule 5) state the following:

*All meeting participants including Councilors, citizens and staff should confine their remarks to the substance of the issue at hand. Participants should avoid discussing personalities and not impugn the motive, character or integrity of any individual. The Town Council supports the right of a resident to criticize its local government, but this should be done appropriately and responsibly, with civility and discretion. All participants should address their remarks to the Mayor and maintain a civil tone. These rules of conduct shall also apply to all written correspondence.*

We ask that this rule be enforced at future meetings, and that a state trooper be present at all Town Council meetings.

More disturbing is the fact that certain of our elected officials frequently display the same types of behaviors, including disruption of testimony and personal attacks as well as unsupported accusations of incompetence, malfeasance, and dishonesty.

In addition, presenting staff are frequently asked to provide follow-up information. All departments are happy to spend time providing information that will help the Council make an informed decision. However, it often happens that much of the information requested has already been provided or is considered superfluous by most Council members. It would help our efficiency if the Council as a whole would decide what information they require to make an informed decision.

These actions by Councilors have had a detrimental effect upon the efficiency and morale of the entire organization. The potential for adverse effects on employee health and well-being cannot be ignored. This behavior makes employee retention and succession planning more difficult and more costly. It is clearly in the Town's interest to attract and retain quality employees.

The Town's Anti-Harassment Policy includes the following definitions of harassment:

- *Repeated, unscheduled demands for attention and time regarding matters of a non-urgent nature that interfere with an employee's ability to perform his other routine job duties in a timely and effective manner;*
- *Any communication or action that is demeaning, rude or inflammatory or otherwise incites anger, hurt, fear or embarrassment in the receiver of the communication or action;*
- *Unwanted questions or comments pertaining to any aspect of an employee's person or personal*

life;

- *Unwanted contact at an employee's home or in public when an employee is off duty.*

We ask that the Town Council thoroughly review the Anti-Harassment Policy.

Further, an increasing number of residents are approaching Town staff to express their disgust at the disrespect shown to our Town officials, both public and staff. These residents are reluctant to participate in meetings for fear of similar treatment and the high level of tension evident at Council meetings. Despite their concerns, most residents are very satisfied with the level of service provided by the Town and are proud of the positive reputation that Mansfield has among other municipalities in the state. In order to thrive, a democratic system must encourage all residents to participate in its processes. As fewer citizens are willing to participate in Town activities, it will be more and more difficult to maintain the quality of life of which Mansfield is justifiably proud.

In closing, we cannot express strongly enough our belief that, under your leadership, the Town management, structure and operations are run at a highly professional level. It is painful to witness your professionalism and integrity questioned without merit, often in the most uncivil manner. We appreciate the support you have given to all Town staff under difficult conditions. Please forward our concerns and recommendations to the Town Council, in the expectation of working together to create an atmosphere in which the peoples' work can be done in an efficient, respectful manner.

In the meantime, we will continue to serve this wonderful community to the best of our abilities. It is important for the Town Council to know the negative impacts on employee morale and productivity caused by the unchecked behavior of a few individuals.

Respectfully submitted, Mansfield Department Heads

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*Cheri Seaton*  
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*Jane K. Paine*  
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*J. C. G.A.*  
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*Tom Kowalski*  
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*W. W. W.*  
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*May Stanton*  
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*Carl Vincent*  
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*Peter Schuch*  
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*P. W.*  
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*Mike Winkler* *PT*  
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*David Dagon* *PT*  
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