

**SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
April 9, 2014**

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, April 9, 2014 in the lower level conference room, Town Hall, 83 Mountain Rd., Suffield, CT.

ATTENDANCE:Lou Casinghino, Chairman
.....Cindy Nicholson, Vice Chairman
.....Kerri Milne, Clerk
.....Brian Casinghino
.....Amy Egan
ABSENTDavid Rusnock
.....Leeayn Burke
.....Bill Clark
.....Gerry Crane

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:Wendy J. LaMontagne, Director

Lou called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

MINUTES: Cindy made a motion to accept the minutes. Kerri seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE: Lou welcomed newly appointed Amy Egan to the Commission. Amy fills the vacancy created by the resignation of Mike Roccanti.

PROGRAM REPORTS: No comments

OLD BUSINESS:

Budget & ACCE: Nothing new to report.

Lou moved to the new business portion of the agenda as some commission members were arriving later.

Wendy reported that Pam Cocca began as the Registration Clerk with the department. She will be working 10 hours per week, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in the morning.

New Business

Spring Sports – Wendy reported the annual spring sports meeting with all the groups that use the fields were conducted last month. The scheduling is in the process of being completed. Some fields have become available for play, the highway crew is working hard to open all the fields as soon as the weather and conditions allow.

Cindy Nicholson and Wendy reported they met with representatives from the school, Larry Plano and Mikki Randall, along with Cindy Fisher. This was a recap meeting of the winter season and gym usage. Everyone agreed there were issues with the scheduling and use of gyms and Larry is setting up a meeting in the summer with all the groups that schedule time in the schools to work through problems prior to the start of the winter. Commissioners are welcome to attend.

Cindy reported that according to the Board of Education School use policy the Parks & Recreation department has priority over other clubs and groups but Larry is looking at the numbers of participants and low numbers may result in moving us out of gym space or having to share with other groups.

Summer programs – Wendy reported the summer brochure is still in progress and we are behind due to the administrative support situation. The department has been interviewing for summer positions, there is a lot of interest in camp counselor positions but not lifeguards. Notices and calls are part of the campaign for recruiting guards. Wendy distributed a flyer to the commission to help recruit guards. She encouraged Commissioners to help in the recruitment. Kerri will follow up with a potential lead from the Suffield County Club. Amy will post at Westfield State.

May Commission meeting – there was discussion reminding commissioners that the May meeting is scheduled for the first Wednesday of the month, May 7, since the Town budget meeting is scheduled for the second Wednesday of the month, May 14. Cindy informed the Commission that there is a P.E. night event scheduled at the school and several commissioners will not be able to attend the Commission meeting on May 7. The commission agreed to have the meeting on the May 14, and begin the meeting at 6:00 p.m. so members could attend the Town meeting.

Lou moved the meeting back to Old business.

Bridge Street School:

Wendy distributed a report that was submitted to the First Selectman per his request. She was tasked with the assignment to compile a report on the types of new programs, revenues and expenses that could be brought in if we were at Bridge Street School. The program information included was based on ideas that the commission has discussed in the past year that could be offered. Brian emailed some program ideas to be incorporated and preschool and adult programs were a part of the new programs. The report was fiscally conservative in the net revenues based on minimum numbers but there is the possibility for increased revenue potential. Lou discussed that he believes numbers that are more in the middle and not as conservative should be used.

Brian joined the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Cindy will get revised numbers from Wendy and include an increased revenue number in her public comments at the finance board meeting. Cindy reported that all commissioners should be attending public meetings, supporting the projects, the commission, and the department, especially the Board of Finance meeting on Monday night.

The commission discussed that the First Selectman asked Wendy to update this report with the programs that could only be held at Bridge Street School.

Cindy made a motion to support the programs as indicated in the plan dated April 8, 2014, and we believe these additional programs should only be run out of the community center at the former Bridge Street School (i.e. the new community center).

Brian seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

A centralized building is what we need and to keep our programs centralized for our residents. Commission consensus is not to change the report.

Department Position – Lou reported he attended the Board of Selectman meeting last week and the new registration clerk position came up. Lou questioned the position to the Board and the point that a union grievance is in process. The First Selectman proposed the 10 hour position. Lou only agreed to the 10 hours because the full time 35 hour position was cut out completely and 10 hours was better than nothing. Lou reported that he asked the First Selectman if he would be willing to negotiate more hours and Ed said yes he would be willing.

Lou reported that in talking with Wendy, the department is buried and behind and we need more help and Lou suggested since there is money in the payroll line item until June because there was a gap from January to March with no one was paid. He suggested that money to be used to add more hours to the current 10 hour position. Commission members should approach the First Selectmen to have some temporary help immediately in the department. There was discussion that two other commissioners should meet with the Selectman. Everyone is in favor of getting additional help for the department.

ADJOURNMENT: Kerri made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cindy seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerri Milne, Clerk