

**SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**MONTHLY MEETING**  
**October 8, 2014**

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, October 8, 2014, in the lower level conference room, Town Hall, 83 Mountain Rd., Suffield, CT.

ATTENDANCE: .....Lou Casinghino, Chairman  
.....Cindy Nicholson, Vice Chairman  
.....Leeayn Burke  
.....Amy Egan  
.....David Rusnock

ABSENT .....Brian Casinghino  
.....Bill Clark  
.....Gerry Crane  
.....Kerri Milne, Clerk

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:.....Wendy J. LaMontagne, Director  
.....Dan Leger, Parks & Recreation Soccer Coach  
.....Rob Faber, Parks & Recreation Soccer Coach  
.....Greg Conway, Parks & Recreation Soccer Coach  
.....Gary Cronin, Parks & Recreation Soccer Coach  
.....Becky Klein, resident

Lou called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

**PUBLIC INPUT:** Dan Leger, a Parks and Recreation Soccer Coach for boys grade 1 & 2 and girls grade 3 & 4 spoke in regard to a scheduling situation. Dan acknowledged the accommodations that the department made for scheduling of games because of time conflict. Dan said he feels that there is no flexibility in scheduling. Dan, Rob Faber, Parks & Recreation Soccer Coach, and the commission discussed situations last year and this year. Dan had suggestions on how to help with this part of the program and hopefully increase the number of youth playing in this program.

Lou brought up the game times that were switched and Greg Conway, Parks & Recreation Soccer Coach, spoke about why it was requested and a situation that occurred regarding the field set up and referees.

Gary Cronin, Parks & Recreation Soccer Coach, spoke regarding the above situation and the fact that there are no numbers on the shirts. Gary said it is very difficult to referee and use teaching moments if the players do not have numbers on their shirts. Gary suggested that coaches who have experience can be helpful to the program.

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Lou said that on a future agenda the topic of program flexibility will be put on. Once it is on the agenda it can be discussed.

Becky Klein said that she has been a soccer coach and is worried about the loss of participants in the soccer program. Becky said she has some ideas and would like to see the program grow and continue.

Cindy asked the coaches to email their ideas to Wendy and she will forward them to the commission members.

Cindy asked if they were aware that the department is understaffed and has not had a secretary for almost a year. The department now has a person for 10 hours a week. Cindy also said that we are hoping to have Bridge Street School as a facility and hoped they were in favor of this.

The commission thanked everyone for their comments.

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

Dave arrived at 7:35 p.m.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**PROGRAM REPORTS:** No comments

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Department Position:** Wendy said that she has no update. Leeayn said that she feels we need to meet with the 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman. Lou said that he would set up a meeting requesting an update. Cindy, Lou and Dave will attend this meeting.

**Bridge Street School:** Wendy said that John Metzger, Consultant, will present his final report to the Bridge Street Ad Hoc Committee tomorrow and all commission members are invited. Wendy passed out an article outlining renovating a community center. Wendy is a member of the National Recreation and Parks Association and this article is from their October magazine.

**Soccer:** Wendy said the games have started, the referees are doing a good job and we have not had any rain outs.

**On-Line Registration:** Wendy said it was narrowed down to two companies and now one has been selected. MyRec.com is the company selected. Wendy has talked with the 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman and he will sign off on this once the contract is received. The next piece of this project is the company that will handle the payments. Wendy will work with Finance department on this. Cindy asked about training and Wendy said that we will have

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training and they will be there to help us. Leeayn asked if any other departments will be using this. Wendy said this software is only for parks and recreation departments. Wendy also said that many of the surrounding towns use this system and have offered help if we need it.

Cindy thanked Wendy for the good job she has done.

**New Business:**

**School Use:** Wendy met with Larry Plano and Mikki Randall, from the school, this summer and most recently last week to discuss scheduling and school use and to work through scheduling. Wendy said that we are coming into the volleyball and basketball season and reminded the commission that the school board policy is that the school has first priority and then Parks and Recreation is next in line. A lot of changes have been made to our programs by Larry, and Wendy did a chart to show the changes. Wendy is aware that a lot of groups and people are requesting gym times but the concern is that Larry has made changes to Parks and Recreation programs including the start times of our adult volleyball and basketball programs, reducing our youth basketball program times and changing program nights without asking us.

The commission discussed the changes to the programs and the reasons Larry gave for the changes. Cindy suggested that she and Lou meet with Larry. This meeting would be regarding the School Board policy and adhering to it. The commission discussed in detail reasons for having this meeting and the reason why we need to do it now. Lou, Cindy and Dave will meet with Larry. Lou will set up a meeting for next week, October 14 or 15.

Leeayn said that she feels the commission should present a united front and stand behind Wendy and the department. The commission discussed why this is not happening. Leeayn felt that commission members' attendance is part of the problem. Cindy asked if we have a policy. The commission discussed this and Cindy suggested we prepare a policy and vote on it.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Cindy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dave seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Scheitlin, Recording Secretary for  
Kerri Milne, Clerk