

SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
February 11, 2015

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, February 11, 2015, in the lower level conference room, Town Hall, 83 Mountain Rd., Suffield, CT.

ATTENDANCE:Lou Casinghino, Chairman
.....Cindy Nicholson, Vice Chairman
.....Kerri Milne, Clerk
.....Leeayn Burke
.....Bill Clark

ABSENTBrian Casinghino
.....Amy Egan
.....Gerry Crane
.....David Rusnock

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:.....Wendy J. LaMontagne, Director
.....Krystal Holmes, Bridge St. School Ad Hoc
Committee Member

Lou called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

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

PROGRAM REPORTS: No comments

OLD BUSINESS:

Bridge Street School – update: Lou said that we were hoping to go before the Board of Finance on the 9th of this month but it didn't work out. We will be presenting on March 9th which is also when the department will be presenting the Parks and Recreation budget.

Lou said that the finance board is looking for a business plan. Krystal said that a very detailed business plan will be sent to the finance board 2 weeks before the meeting so they will have time to review and digest the information. Krystal gave a review of what is included in the business plan.

Lou said that the cost of the plan, from the original approximately 3 million to the current 7 to 8 million may be a problem. Krystal said she has reviewed those figures and they

were from 5 or 6 years ago so the costs have gone up. The commission discussed the figures, where they came from, and that the original figures were for a bare bones facility.

Leeayn said that she has talked with residents and said we need to sell the value of the facility. The commission discussed whether it is a money issue or a value issue people are concerned about. Krystal discussed bonding the facility, what the bonding is presently and how the future debt service would be affected.

Krystal said that the next piece is public support. Krystal reviewed the different vehicles that would be used to try and educate the public. Lou and Cindy said it is imperative that the commission members attend the Board of Finance meeting on March 9th. The commission will write a letter of support of this project.

Krystal discussed the timing of a referendum on this project and hopes to have it in June. The commission discussed the different issues that are in the works for referendums, that have the attention of the public. Krystal and the commission agreed that we have to keep the momentum going so a June referendum would be best.

Youth Basketball – update: Wendy said games are underway and thanked Cindy Nicolson for her help with the referees. Wendy said that this year the referee time sheets have a block for coaches to make comments. So far there have been no comments. Cindy said that everyone is pleased with the program and what the department is doing.

There is still an issue with the coach that changed his practice schedule at Spaulding. Wendy spoke to the coach and the issue is still not resolved. Wendy is contacting the principal of Spaulding to make him aware of this situation. The commission discussed this situation, how it affects the program and what to do. Lou suggested a letter be sent to the coach letting him know that our liability ends at 6:00 p.m. and our staff will be leaving at 6:00 p.m.

Sports programs – sub committee update: Cindy said she will be working on this.

A.C.C.E.: Wendy said she presented our A.C.C.E. request last week and thanked Leeayn and Gerry for attending the meeting. Wendy passed out the requests presented to A.C.C.E. Wendy said that the Babbs project has been laid out over 4 to 5 years. Wendy felt that A.C.C.E. seemed to be very receptive. Gerry made a good presentation about the volunteer manpower, projects and dollars of grant money that C.R.C. has provided to this project. Wendy reviewed the phases and how it can be used and become profitable. Wendy said the town has a first class resource in the Babb's property.

Budget: Wendy said that she will present the department budget on March 9th. Wendy is not aware of any cut to the budget other than the request of 19.5 hours cut back to current 15 hours for the registration clerk.

NEW BUSINESS – No new business.

ADJOURNMENT: Cindy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Leeayn seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Scheitlin, recording secretary for
Kerri Milne, Clerk