

MINUTES

**SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
JULY 8, 2009**

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, July 8, 2009, at Babbs Roller Skating Rink, Babbs Road, West Suffield, Ct.

ATTENDANCE:Lou Casinghino, Chairman
.....Jane Smith, Clerk
.....Leeayn Burke
.....Gerry Crane
.....Michael Roccanti

ABSENT:Joseph Bombard
.....Brian Casinghino
.....Bill Clark

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:Wendy J. LaMontagne, Director

Lou opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

PUBLIC INPUT: None

MINUTES:

Gerry made a motion to accept the minutes. Jane seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PROGRAM REPORTS: Leeayn said that her children participated in the swimming lesson program this year and the children had a good time. Leeayn said that from a parent standpoint it is a little frustrating although the lessons were good, there were a few areas that needed to be taken care of with equipment and grouping. Leeayn would like to have a survey filled out by parents so children would know where they belong before the program starts. Wendy said that the children are tested on the first day of the program by the lifeguards. The determination of what level the children will be placed in has to be done by the lifeguards since we provide Red Cross Swim lessons. Wendy reviewed why the children were grouped as they were and that the Waterfront Director has been working with us before. Wendy also reviewed when the lessons take place for the Sunrise/Tween children and then the public swim lessons. There is a time constraint because we have lessons for camp, public lessons and free swim time. Leeayn also mentioned that there was no separation between the public swim area and the area for swim lessons. There had been a division in the past. Wendy said that with the start of Session 2 changes were made. Jane asked about the autistic child and why there wasn't an aide. Wendy said we were not aware of this before the lessons started. The registration form has a section for

parents to inform us of any needs and sometime the parents don't put the information on the forms.

The commission discussed having the parents provide certificates or forms from other swimming programs to help the instructors evaluation the child's level.

Lou asked to move to New Business: Election of Clerk.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election of Officer - Clerk: Gerry made a motion to nominate Leeayn as Clerk. Lou asked if there were any other nominations. None came forward. Mike seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS:

Summer Programs: Wendy said the camps started June 29 and the enrollments have picked up. Wendy said that we did make adjustments in staff moving some staff to other camps or the waterfront to make it work through the 1st session. We are in full swing with programs and camps and it has been successful. Lou asked if any camps had to be cancelled and Wendy said yes, some of the enrichment camps. Wendy said that this year there were 12 enrichment camps and next year Wendy will have fewer camps. Luckily those enrolled in cancelled camps were able to move to the ones that were being held.

Wendy said the tennis program has had a problem getting started due to the weather conditions.

Mike asked for participant information from the spring programs for the subcommittee to contact for evaluations. Wendy said that she would like to see the committee work on summer camps/programs. Wendy will get the lists to Mike for his distribution.

Tennis/Basketball Courts Update: Wendy said that the work was delayed due to weather but that the courts are now done and look very nice.

Jane asked about the lane lines when foul shots are being taken. Wendy said that the lines are the same as before the work was done.

Lou said that the tennis courts look very good. Wendy said the bleachers are bolted down and the nets are up. The lights are on until 10:00 p.m. during the summer.

Wendy said that the volleyball court is also being used. Wendy said that Mark Cervione (Highway Supervisor) will be putting synthetic turf between the courts to help prevent the sand from moving.

Jane said that the Family Rec Complex is a nice area and a compliment to the town.

Lou suggested that aerial photographs of our parks would be a great way to show off our facilities and it is not expensive. Gerry said that he would be talking with the photographer who took the aerial photos of the Babbs.

Subcommittee Assignments: Wendy passed out a list showing the old lists and asked if anyone wants to switch from one committee to another. Lou would like each member to participate on two subcommittees.

Gerry: Babbs and Long Range Planning
Mike: Budget and Fields and Facilities
Jane: Budget and Publicity
Lou: Budget and Fields and Facilities
Leeayn: Long-Range Planning and Publicity
Brian:
Jay:
Bill:

Wendy reviewed what the publicity committee entails. This group will do extra publicity, additionally from what the office already does. This may entail sending emails, handing out flyers and brainstorming.

Wendy said that she will email Brian, Jay and Bill and will have a more detailed list for the next meeting.

Gerry thanked Mike for coming to the Babbs beach last week and clearing out the debris. Gerry asked that the Parks & Recreation Department request the Town to remove the brush that has been cleared from the clean-up.

ADJOURNMENT

Gerry made a motion to adjourn and Jane seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Smith