

MINUTES

**SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
JUNE 10, 2009**

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, June 10, 2009, in the meeting room, 230 C Mountain Road.

ATTENDANCE:Lou Casinghino, Chairman
.....Jane Smith, Clerk
.....Joseph Bombard
.....Brian Casinghino
.....Gerry Crane
.....Michael Roccanti

ABSENT:Leeayn Burke
.....Bill Clark

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:Wendy J. LaMontagne, Director
.....Ralph Carruci, Jets Youth Football representative
.....Craig Schoener, Jets Youth Football representative

Lou opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

PUBLIC INPUT: None

MINUTES:

Mike made a motion to accept the April 2009 minutes. Brian seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The May meeting was not held.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PROGRAM REPORTS: Wendy reported on John Fisher's Eagle Scout project. The project was to list all the parks, locations and information about the parks on our website. Wendy said that she worked with him over the winter and he did a very nice job. Wendy said she attended his Eagle Scout Award Ceremony and it was very nice.

Wendy informed the commission that she has been working with the Arts Council and we will have some concerts on the green given by local talent. The performers will volunteer their performances. The concerts will be on Wednesdays in July.

OLD BUSINESS:

Lou asked to move up the 3rd item on the agenda, Jet's Football. Gerry made a motion to move to Jet's Football and Jane seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Jets Football: Wendy introduced Ralph Carruci and Craig Schoener and reviewed the new request from the Jets' Football for use of our fields. In February the Commission voted to allow the Jet's Football to use the Bridge St. field for practice and the Middle School field for weekend Games. The new request is to use the Middle School field for practice August through October. In October practices will be move to the HS turf field, and weekends the games will be held in Windsor Locks. The Jet's are working with the school in regards to the turf field. The group will make repairs to the Middle school field if there is damage.

Lou said that the biggest concern is damage to the fields. Wendy said that she has contacted Ed Basile, business manager at the school. There is concerned with the integrity of the fields since they are used by pupils at the school during the day. Lou asked if the football teams would be using the fields if it rains and if they would be willing to move to Bridge Street fields. Wendy said that a request was made to use the Middle School field for a free clinic for parents to try out the program. This clinic is being held now. Craig and Ralph said that the fields are still in good condition after this clinic and they will be using the fields 5 nights a week in August which is usually dry. Jane asked how many teams there were and what the practice schedule is. There are 4 teams that practice, ages 6 to 14, and they spread out over the field and practice at the same time.

Lou asked the commission if they would like to think about the field use or if they would like to make a decision tonight. Ralph and Craig said that they are under pressure to provide information on where and when the program will be held so they can give it to their participants.

Gerry asked if there was a scheduling issue with the fields. Wendy said that soccer program will be moving to the Sullivan field. The commission discussed the field use and scheduling. Craig and Ralph discussed with the commission their program use and willingness to correct any damage to fields that might occur. They also stated that they are very happy to have the opportunity to practice here and will work at maintaining a good relationship with the Town.

Gerry made a motion to allow the Jets Youth Football to use our fields for practice. Jay seconded. Wendy said that she will revamp the letter of understanding. The commission discussed the closing of fields process and allowing them to practice at Bridge Street school field in the event of rain. Vote was unanimous.

Plan of Development: Wendy said that an email was sent to everyone for their review and asked if there were any comments or ideas. Wendy said that the goals were from 10 years ago and they were put in by Zoning and Planning. Now is the time to offer input for this Plan.

There was discussion regarding Babbs and CRC (Citizen's Restoring Congamond). CRC, and Wendy will be meeting with the Selectman on this project and the beach area.

Summer Programs: Wendy reviewed the advertising we have done, the brochure, the school digital backpack, other electronic sources, youth athletic groups, phone calls to parents of last year's camps, press releases and news articles. Wendy also was able to have Spaulding give out a flyer on summer programs one time. We are in a learning curve with the new electronic notifications.

Wendy reviewed an alternative plan for Tween Camp session 1. The director of that camp will be going to the Middle school at lunch time to promote the program and Ida Hickerson at Middle school sent out an email to all students regarding the programs. Wendy said that she has talked with her peers and they are having the same situation with their camps – some are going and some are hurting for enrollment.

Jane said that Wildcats Basketball camp, is also extremely low this year.

Lou asked about having the sign-up night as we did in the past. Jane said that it started to fade out once people realized they can come to the office and sign-up. The question about internet sign-up was asked. Wendy said we don't have that as yet. The commission discussed the lack of sign-ups and the situation with going to on-line info vs. paper copies, in person sign-ups.

The suggestion was made to have staff at the school for drop off or pick up to promote the programs and give or take registrations forms. Wendy said that the brochures are in the school office and Leeayn set up manila pockets to put on the bulletin board at the school for our brochures.

Lou suggested we contact the PTO and have a representative go to a meeting to promote the programs giving them information and asking for their help with marketing.

Basketball/Tennis Courts Update: Wendy said that next week the tennis courts will be repaired and the following week the basketball courts will be painted – weather permitting. The courts will be closed during repair work.

Wendy said that Mark Cervione (Highway Department Supervisor) will be putting artificial turf between the tennis and basketball courts. They may be putting the bleachers on this turf and anchor it down. They will be putting benches on the other side for players and they are working on trying to secure these so they don't get moved.

Wendy said that in the water fountain area there will be a plaque put on the rock in front of the foundation and additional landscaping will be done.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election of Officers: Lou asked for nominations for chairman. Gerry made a motion to nominate Lou as chairman. Jay seconded. Lou asked for other nominations. There were none. Vote was unanimous

Lou asked for nominations for vice-chairman. Jay made a motion to nominate Jane as vice-chairman. Jane said that she was happy as clerk. Lou asked if anyone else was interested. No other nominations were made. Mike seconded Jane's nomination. Vote was unanimous.

Jane reviewed the job of being clerk. The decision was made to table the election of clerk. Jane made a motion to table nominations for the clerk position. Jay seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Lou said that the subcommittees should be redone trying to have 3 people on each committee. The members and subcommittees were reviewed and publicity was added for a total of 6 subcommittees.

Wendy will put this on next month's agenda and assignments will be made at that time.

Gerry offered to have next month's meeting at Babbs. Gerry said that this will give the commission members a chance to see the work that has been done at the skating rink.

ADJOURNMENT

Jay made a motion to adjourn and Jane seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Smith, Clerk