

MINUTES

**SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
NOVEMBER 12, 2008**

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, November 12, 2008, in the meeting room, 230 C Mountain Road.

ATTENDANCE:Lou Casinghino, Chairman
.....Bob Ravens-Seger, Vice Chairman
.....Joseph Bombard
.....Leeayn Burke
.....Bill Clark
.....Michael Roccanti

ABSENT:Gerry Crane
.....Jane Smith, Clerk

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:Wendy J. LaMontagne, Director
.....Tony Liquori
.....Craig Schoner
.....Ralph Carucci
.....Holly LaBarre

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

MINUTES:

Bob made a motion to accept the minutes. Bill seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

CORRESPONDENCE: Wendy said that she received a request from Jets Youth Football that will be discussed next.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Bob made a motion to move the Jets Football item up on the agenda. Mike seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Lou welcomed members of the Jets Youth Football program and discussed that the School system is in charge of scheduling and use of the new turf field at the High School. Wendy read a letter from the Jets Executive Board requesting to use one practice field three nights per week through the end of November, and the use of the 'all purpose field (new turf) for home games.

Tony Liquori reviewed the Jets Youth Football program and that it is a feeder program to the Raiders program. The program also includes a cheerleading program. There are 153 youth in both programs, 78 of them Suffield youth. Mr. Liquori and his Board are going before the

Suffield School Board to request the use of the turf field. They are requesting a practice field from Parks & Recreation that is 120 yards in length. They would like to practice from the end of July through Thanksgiving, 5 nights a week, and, once school begins, 3 nights a week, and Sunday Games. They play in the rain and snow, and cancel games during lightning storms. They would also like to put a storage container on site for equipment.

Lou thanked the Board for attending and the Commission will further discuss this matter at another meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Fields and Facilities:

Wendy said that Sullivan Field has been graded and seeded. A new field will be added to the inventory for the fall next year. Cindy and Wendy are considering moving the Kindergarten soccer group from Bridge Street to Sullivan field next fall along with other age groups since Bridge Street and Spaulding fields are in rough shape. Lou asked how large the new field is, and if it could be a possible football location, Wendy said the new field was approximately 190' x 350'.

The water fountain project is progressing with the water line complete, and also fencing. The project will be completed in the spring.

The tennis courts and Skate Park will be closing soon for the season.

Bridge Street School Lou said the study committee is meeting regularly and reminded commissioners to talk with committee members. The Commission discussed that this school would be a good place for the Parks and Recreation Department. Leaynn and Bob said they would like to attend meetings by the study committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

Youth Basketball Wendy reported that registrations are coming in for the youth basketball program. They went out in the new digital backpack system at the schools along with the traditional flyers. Wendy and Cindy met with new travel basketball president Jim Dion to review gym use and scheduling. The program will begin January 3 and run like last year with more days, and play on holiday weekends. The coaches' meeting will be held December 8 and Coleman Smith will conduct a clinic for coaches at that time. The open gym pick up basketball program began last week with 22 children participating.

Summer Sports Camps 2009

Soccer camp requests for proposals were sent out to three camps and two camps responded. MLS camps and UK International. After review, Cindy and Wendy recommend that MLS Camps be held in the summer of 2009. They continue to conduct a great program with positive feedback from both parents and children. Bob made a motion to accept MLS Soccer Camp for summer of 2009 camp program. Leaynn seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Lou asked if the camps would be presenting to the commission and Wendy said by compiling the proposal information into the comparison sheets, commissioners can evaluate accordingly. Jay said this way saves everyone time. Lou asked how we determine which camps to include and Wendy explained that calls are placed to other recreation departments to see what camps are available and also that there are limited businesses offering specialty camps. Lou suggested putting information on-line next year.

In regards to tennis camp and tennis for tots, Wendy and Cindy recommend that Conrad McIntire's Tennis Sport for Life be held next summer. He has run great camps for the past 13 years and his tennis for tots program is popular. Bob made a motion to accept Tennis Sport for Life Camp proposal and Jay seconded it. The vote was unanimous.

Two proposals were sent to basketball camps with one being received. Wendy and Cindy recommended Coleman Smith's Wildcats Basketball Comp. He has run a great camp for the past 11 years and also provides a coaches clinic and skills clinic for youth. Leeayn made a motion to accept Wildcat's Basketball Camp proposal and Mike seconded it. The vote was unanimous.

Two proposals were sent to baseball, softball and tee ball camps with one being received. Wendy and Cindy recommended Bob Cressotti's camp. This camp was held last summer and it went very well, and the tee ball camp was introduced and very popular. Bob made a motion to accept Bob Cressotti's Baseball, Softball, Tee ball camp proposal and Mike seconded it. The vote was unanimous.

The Skyhawks Golf camp was held for the first time last summer and was very popular. Wendy said we would like to offer it again. Bob made a motion to have Skyhawks Golf camp and Bill seconded it. The vote was unanimous.

Lou asked if we were offering lacrosse camp. Wendy said no requests were sent out as the lacrosse camp did not have enough participation last year and was canceled. Wendy explained that it got complicated when offering a beginner introductory camp for both genders and equipment was expensive. There was discussion about offering a lacrosse camp next summer and Wendy said she would contact other towns and send out requests for proposals to offer a lacrosse camp for the summer.

A.C.C.E. Wendy reported that the budget subcommittee met prior to this meeting and handed out the recommended future projects. Commission discussed projects and priorities, Bob made a motion to accept A.C.C.E. items as prepared: #1. Babb's Beach Conceptual Design Study, \$25,000. #2. Bath House Babb's Beach, cost based on conceptual design, #3. Babb's Beach Overlook Area, cost based on conceptual design, #4. Resurface Tennis Courts, \$22,604. #5. Spaulding Athletic Field Renovation, \$111,280. #6. Dug Outs Bruce Park, \$43,152. #7. Concession/restroom storage building Bruce Park, \$235,620. Leeayn seconded it. The vote was unanimous.

Budget Wendy distributed a memo from the Board of Finance and discussed that Scott is requesting preliminary budgets in December with a new process this year. A fiscal year 2009-

2010 budget maintaining level services, a fiscal year 2009-2010 budget with any additions justified and a fiscal year 2010-2011 budget. Lou said it is hard to project these budgets in general especially if they have contracts that need to be negotiated. The budget subcommittee met prior to this meeting and discussed submitting a budget that includes items that were rejected last summer; including the part time summer recreation aide position and extra hours for Donna's part time position during the busy summer months. Also added was a line item for concerts on the green as the donations for these concerts have dwindled. Wendy requested to have the fencing project to raise the height of the Bruce Park baseball and softball fences to the Public Works Department budget since the project is under \$10,000. Camps and aquatics will include a 3.5% increase to staff and a new raft at the Sunrise waterfront.

PROGRAM REPORTS: Leeyan had called parents in regards to Introduction to Horseback Riding. The program is good, parents felt, and they would like to see more riding next time. The Power Play Martial Arts was good and one parent who had moved here from out of town said "we rock". Mike had called parents in regards to Squeaky Sneakers, Spooktacular, and Howling Crafts. Though everyone likes them, they thought we should consider healthier snacks next time.

Lou reminded everyone the December meeting will be held at his house and after the meeting there is a buffet.

ADJOURNMENT

Bob made a motion to adjourn and Mike seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Scheitlin, recording secretary for
Jane Smith, Clerk