

MINUTES

**SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
MAY 12, 2010**

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, May 12, 2010, at 230C Mountain Road, Conference Room

ATTENDANCE:Lou Casinghino, Chairman
.....Leeayn Burke, Clerk
.....Brian Casinghino
.....Gerry Crane
.....Cindy Nicholson
.....Michael Roccanti
.....David Rusnock

ABSENT:Bill Clark
.....Jane Smith, Vice Chairman

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:Wendy J. LaMontagne, Director

Lou opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

PUBLIC INPUT: None

MINUTES:

Cindy made a motion to accept the minutes. Mike seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PROGRAM REPORTS:

Program participation numbers: Wendy compiled the numbers for some of the adult programs and indicated that they can be found on second page of the report. Wendy explained why she chose those programs. She also said that she would be updating the programs on a quarterly basis since our staple programs are based on this.

OLD BUSINESS:

Gymnastics Program Recap.: Wendy said that it was a great new program and thanked Brian for his help with this program. She also thanked Heather Casinghino and her assistant for their help in getting the school facility and putting on a great program. Wendy passed out the comments from the evaluation sheets that were given to parents at the end of the program.

Wendy said 13 children participated and it was a very good ratio of participant to instructor. Wendy discussed the enrollment and age range. Brian would like to see the program expanded to include younger children. Brian said that the difficulty is having enough qualified supervisors and spotters for each apparatus and exercise. The commission discussed a safe ratio for the program and the location with the proper equipment. Cindy said that for younger children they need downsized equipment.

Fields & Facilities: Wendy said that the Public Works Department has installed a 12 foot fence at the softball field at Bruce Park. This is instead of the netting.

Gerry arrived.

Wendy discussed the lights for the Packard Field, these are the lights from Copperhill Road. Wendy said that she would like to have the subcommittee meet to develop a plan of usage for this field once it is lighted. Wendy would like to have a plan in place before the lights are installed this summer. Wendy reviewed the various items that need to be discussed and decided on. Brian asked what Packard Field is used for and Wendy said that it is a premier soccer field. The commission also discussed the fact that the field is in good shape because it is not overused and it is carefully maintained.

Babbs: Gerry said that there is nothing new to report. Gerry asked if the town has telephone poles. Gerry said that the stage area has to be covered for a short while with canvas and they need poles for each corner to hold it up. Gerry discussed the upcoming July 3 event.

NEW BUSINESS:

Vending Cart at Parks: Wendy said that she spoke with the woman (who initiated the inquiry) and discussed that the commission briefly discussed her request and that we were leaning to follow the same course of action as the Conservation commission and not allowing carts at parks.

After receiving this information she contacted Tom (1st selectman) and met with him. After Tom's meeting with this individual he contacted Wendy and informed her that the individual has a reasonable type of approach and wants to look into basic vending regulations. Tom suggested this individual should contact the commission and come to a meeting. Wendy said that she has not been contacted by this woman to ask to be on the agenda.

Lou said that he would like to know who is legally in control to allow this to happen and have jurisdiction over the rules and enforcement at the parks. Is it our commission, zoning and planning, etc. Mike asked who made the decision not to allow vending at Sunrise Park. Wendy said that after speaking with the Conservation Chairman, it is in the deed for Sunrise Park. Wendy said that regulations are not clear on this issue and zoning and planning passed this issue to us since we are in charge of our parks. Wendy said that the Police Department and Selectman can give out permits for vending and could allow this.

Lou recommends that the town or town attorney should approach this situation as to who determines if they can or can't have vending carts.

The commission discussed the Soccer Tournament and the sales of food and merchandise along with other non-profit organizations. The commission discussed the booster club, rotary, non-profit versus a profit vendor. The consensus of the commission is that vending should be done by our non-profit town organizations as opposed to a for profit vendor.

Lou said that we are not in a position to approve or disapprove a for profit vendor utilizing our facilities at this time until it is clarified by either the town attorney or selectman.

Wendy said that she would compile a statement incorporating the above sentiment.

Election of Officers:

Lou asked for nominations for chairman. Gerry made a motion to nominate Lou as chairman. Lou asked if there are any other nominations. There were none and no discussion. Brian seconded the nomination and the vote was unanimous.

Lou asked for nominations for vice-chairman. Gerry made a motion to nominate Jane as vice-chairman. Lou asked if there are any other nominations. There were none and no discussion. Mike seconded the nomination and the vote was unanimous.

Lou asked for nominations for clerk. Brian made a motion to nominate Leeayn as clerk. Lou asked if there are any other nominations. There were none and no discussion. David seconded the nomination and the vote was unanimous.

The commission discussed the skateboard park and the fact that skateboarders are still using the basketball courts. Wendy said that she has been in contact with the police department. Mike said that he has asked skateboarders to leave the basketball courts and also has contacted the police to ask them to patrol.

Wendy said that the skateboard park at town hall had to be closed for a few days because of trash, clothes, broken bicycle, and vandalism at the skateboard park and parking lot. During the time it was temporarily closed, Tom (selectman) informed Wendy that 2 young men had climbed the fence and were inside the locked park skating.

Lou asked if anyone knows what other towns with skateboard parks do to try and eliminate the problems. Brian said that if laws are broken the persons need to be held accountable.

Mike made a motion to adjourn and Brian seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leeayn Burke
Clerk