

MINUTES

**SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
MARCH 9, 2011**

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, at 230C Mountain Road, Conference Room.

ATTENDANCE:Lou Casinghino, Chairman
.....Cindy Nicholson, Vice Chairman
.....Leeayn Burke, Clerk
.....Brian Casinghino
.....Bill Clark
.....Gerry Crane
.....Kerri Milne
.....Michael Roccanti
.....David Rusnock

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:Wendy J. LaMontagne, Director

In Lou's absence, Cindy Nicholson opened the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

PUBLIC INPUT: None

MINUTES:

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

CORRESPONDENCE: Wendy passed out the spring brochure and informed the commission that this is on the webpage. Also, the teeball and girls softball registration forms are out. Wendy thanked the staff for their work on the new programs. Wendy reviewed a few of the programs and trips we have this year.

Wendy said that she has other correspondence but it pertains to new business, and will be discussed under that item.

PROGRAM REPORTS: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

Cindy moved the agenda to **Youth Basketball Update** per the request of Brian. Brian said that Lou is on his way to the meeting and asked that the Budget and A.C.C.E. item be held until his arrival.

Wendy said that the program has finished and the new improvements made this year seemed to be enjoyed by the participants. This included using high school players to help children and Cindy's help with training of referees.

Wendy said that Molly Clark, a senior referee, was a big help with training the younger referees.

Dave said that his son was in the Mini Hoop program and he was disappointed in the coaching. Wendy said she wished that Dave had come to her with this issue when it was happening so that it could be remedied.

Kerri said that her son enjoyed the Mini Hoop program and she was happy with the coach.

Dave said that parents have told him that they would like to see more playing – there is too much stopping. Brian said that he was happy with the program and very impressed with Brett Bishop's presentation. Brett stressed the need to keeping the children moving.

Brian commented on a coach who was inexperienced and the only coach for the team. Wendy said that at the bottom of the form is a place to check if you want to coach or be an assistant coach. A lesson plan is given to each coach at the coaches meeting which is very detailed. We also have videos and books available and coaches can make an appointment with the staff to come in and go over the coaching lesson plan. Help is available to any coach or assistant coach but the department has to be informed or contacted if that extra help is needed.

Dave asked about children bringing in their own balls that might be a different size from what we use – is this o.k. if there aren't enough balls for the team? The discussion was centered on the size of the ball and why a specific size is used. The commission discussed the use of specific size balls, the safety reasons and the letter that went to the parents. Wendy said that we have plenty of balls and if a team is missing balls all they have to do is contact us.

Cindy said that she talked with Mr. Sullivan and he was very complimentary of the referees this year. Brian said that he also thought they did a very good job.

Lou arrived and took over chairing the meeting. Leeayn also arrived at this time.

Brian discussed the program and also one of the gym monitors. Brian felt that he was too rigid in enforcing the rules. Kerri also discussed a situation she had in which her younger child was with her and not allowed to play next to her. The commission discussed the need for monitors, rules and flexibility of the rules.

Bill suggested using high school players to help with the younger children. All agreed that this is a good idea.

Budget and A.C.C.E.: Wendy said that she presented the A.C.C.E. budget request to the A.C.C.E. board last month and Lou, Gerry, and Mike attended with Wendy. Wendy said that she felt the board was concerned about the tennis courts. Wendy said that the bonding projects will affect the amount of money available and she feels the A.C.C.E. Board is concerned about money for on-going maintenance. Mike said he thinks the board wants the money for tennis court repair to go into the highway department budget. Mike also feels that if it does go into the highway budget it will get lost. Mike asked if we had a separate line item in our budget in the past for maintenance. Wendy said that we did but it was transferred over to the highway department. The commission discussed the A.C.C.E. meeting and philosophy.

Wendy said that next Monday is the date for the Finance Board meeting to review our department budget submittal.

Non-residency Policy: Wendy presented the commission with a draft of a non-residency policy and asked them to review it. Wendy said that she wanted to work on the wording for the policy and once that is defined we can move on to dollar amounts. Wendy reviewed the definition for residency and a seven day wait period before registration can begin for non-residents. Wendy also reviewed fees structures for non-residents who would sign up for our programs.

Brian left the meeting.

In regard to our sport programs, Wendy said we have enough enrollment so we would not allow non-residents for these programs and also the Men's Basketball program. Leeayn asked about older grade teams which don't tend to fill up – when would non-residence be allowed to sign-up for these programs once we know we have very low numbers. Cindy suggested a wait list. The commission discussed this issue and how it would affect the programs, i.e., the sport programs which don't have a large enrollment.

Lou said that his concern on the policy is the seven day restriction period. Lou would like to have a larger timeframe for only Suffield residents to sign-up. Gerry suggested putting non-residents on a waiting list and then call them when and if there are openings. The registration form and check would be held until the deadline. At this point they would be contacted with confirmation or told their check will be returned. Commission discussed registration timeframe, fees for late sign-ups, how the non-residency policy would be written. Cindy asked if Wendy needed the wording right away. Wendy said that she would need the wording by the next meeting in time for the summer brochure.

Draft wording to consider: non-residents may register and pay and will be accepted pending availability in the program. Wendy will work on the revision and email it to everyone.

Wendy said that this is a work in progress and will need to be amended accordingly.

Lou made a motion in favor of the concept of allowing non-residents to sign-up at the same time as residents and paying at the same time and only taking them on as members of a program if residents don't fill the program. The vote was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lighted Basketball Courts use: Wendy said that she has two separate requests. One request is from Sam Zullo, high school coach. He is requesting to hold a fundraiser basketball tournament this summer on two of the Family Rec Complex courts on a Saturday. Wendy distributed the proposals and stated it is a detailed proposal and that she has been in contact with Sam Zullo. Wendy reviewed highlights and that the funds would be used to send players to a basketball camp in NY. She discussed what will happen at the fundraiser and how it will be set up. The commission discussed the request and if this is allowed what this will open up. Wendy discussed phone calls she has received regarding use of the basketball courts by various individuals. Lou said that the courts were built for the use of all Suffield residents and they were not built with the intention of renting them out. Cindy wanted to be sure that the recipients of the camperships will be all Suffield residents. Lou asked if we should have Mr. Zullo attend the next meeting to answer specific questions. The commission agreed that he should be invited to meet with us. The commission discussed the proposal in detail, i.e., supervision, security, maintenance, having a Suffield High School person on the board, monies going only to Suffield residents, precedent this would set, etc. Wendy said she will call Mr. Zullo to ask for clarification of various questions the commission brought up.

Wendy said she received a request from Pat Jubrey(?) of Enfield. He would like to rent both courts on 2 separate nights, Wednesdays and Saturdays, to run a league June to August. This league would not be all Suffield residents. The league would be for 18 and older and he would like to know if we could rent and what the cost would be. Lou said that Enfield has leagues at night and they have lighted courts. Lou feels he could be accommodated in Enfield. Lou said that we have Suffield leagues playing already and it uses only 1 court so individuals can use the other. The consensus of the commission is to not allow Mr. Jubey to use our courts for his league.

Spring Sports Scheduling: Wendy said that she had a meeting last week with the town athletic clubs, school athletic director, highway department and Lou. This meeting was to schedule fields since we have so many requests and limited fields. Lou complimented Wendy on the way she conducted the meeting. Lou said the meeting could not have gone any better, Wendy was extremely well prepared. Lou said the meeting was the smoothest he has been to – Wendy covered all questions even before they were asked.

Cindy asked about the lights for Bruce Park. Wendy said that at this time it doesn't look like they will be at Bruce Park. The here say is that they will be put up at the high school.

Dave brought up a question on Packard Field that was brought up by new members of the Suffield Soccer Club. Wendy reviewed the policy, how the field is used and why. Dave said that Dave Sullivan spoke to the new people and they understood the reasoning for restricted use of the field and the importance of keeping it as a premiere field.

Leeayn complimented the diversity of programs in the Spring Brochure. Leeayn said that beading is a big thing now and also wanted to know if babysitting courses will be offered. Wendy said that we did beading a few years ago and it may be time to revisit this activity. Babysitting is offered by the school and Emergency Aid so it would be redundant for us to offer it.

Leeayn made a motion to adjourn and Gerry seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leeayn Burke, Clerk