

MINUTES

**SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
March 14, 2012**

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, March 14, 2012, at 230-C Mountain Road, Suffield, CT., Conference Room.

ATTENDANCE:Lou Cashinghino, Chairman
.....Leeayn Burke, Clerk
.....Brian Cashinghino
.....Kerri Milne
.....Cindy Nicholson
.....David Rusnock
.....Gerry Crane

ABSENT:Bill Clark
.....Michael Roccanti

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:Wendy J. LaMontagne, Director
.....Marie Bourque, Administrative Secretary

Lou called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

PUBLIC INPUT: none

MINUTES: Cindy made a motion to accept the minutes. Dave seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

CORRESPONDENCE: Wendy informed the commission that the spring brochure is out and has been distributed throughout town, placed on the town website and on the schools digital backpack. It is also being promoted through Qscend emails. There are a lot of great programs for children and adults. Parks & Recreation has been taking registrations and Fun for Fours has been doing extremely well.

Wendy has submitted a grant proposal to the Friends of Suffield for two concerts or entertainment on the green for the 2012 summer season. Parks & Recreation has been the recipient in the past. Due to increasing entertainment cost, Wendy increased the requested amount to \$600.00.

Wendy received notification from the Suffield Soccer Club that they will be donating two picnic tables to Parks and Recreation. Wendy will be coordinating the order and placement of the picnic tables at Bruce Park in April.

Wendy informed the commission that a resident has made a request to reserve the sand volleyball court at the Family Recreation complex for one night a week, from

approximately 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. throughout the summer. It has never been the practice to reserve the courts. The commission discussed the pros and cons of taking reservations for the sand volleyball court. The commission agreed that on a trial basis, reservations would be available to an organized group with a 2 hour time limit. A sign would be placed by the sand volleyball courts to advise the public of the reserved dates and times.

PROGRAM REPORTS: Wendy praised Brian for his work assisting with coaching for the gymnastics program. Michelle, Heather, Brian and Meghan Corr, a high school volunteer, are doing a great job with the kids. There are 19 children in the group and they are having a great time and are learning a lot. There is the possibility of extending the program to 1 ½ hours for next year.

OLD BUSINESS:

Youth Basketball: Wendy advised the commission that the basketball season ended a couple of weeks ago. The children learned a lot and they all had a good time. Any issues that arose were immediately addressed by the Parks and Recreation staff. Wendy thanked Cindy Nicholson for her help with the coaches, it was greatly appreciated. Evaluation information was sent out, two have been returned.

Brian stated that the basketball program was a great experience and the kids had a fantastic time. He also addressed some areas of concern. He feels the kids get a little too aggressive during the game and the referees are a little reluctant to blow the whistle. Because it is an instructional league, play should be stopped and children should be instructed on the proper methods of game play. He also feels the games are rushed and there is no time between quarters to speak to the players. Some possible remedies would be to increase referee training and/or have the coaches alternate shadowing the referees to help out during the game. This would allow the coaches to assist the referee and instruct them in the proper methods of refereeing. The recommendation was made to increase the game time to allow for longer time between quarters. This would allow time for the coaches to give instructions to the players.

Budget: Lou, the First Selectman, the Finance Director and Wendy met last week to review the budget. Due to receiving updated budget figures, Wendy was able to put money back into the aquatics budget that was originally reduced. The Saturday lifeguard hours have been reinstated and the weekday lifeguard hours will run until 4:00 p.m. at Sunrise Park. The payroll rates for returning summer staff will not reflect an increase and money was put back into the waterfront incentive training program. The budget for the 2012-13 fiscal year is \$737.00 lower than the current fiscal year. On Monday, March 12, Wendy attended the finance meeting, where the First Selectman presented the budget to the finance board. Mike was also present at the meeting.

Spring Fields Scheduling: Wendy conducted a field scheduling meeting with the Soccer Club, Lacrosse Club, the Jets Football, the high school Athletic Director and Little League. With a little bit of tweaking and sharing all the groups were able to get field

time when they needed it. All fields, including the Bridge Street School field, which will be used for softball and little league, will be utilized this year.

NEW BUSINESS:

Rail Trail: Cindy was approached by a resident of Suffield and was informed that Southwick, MA has closed the rail trail to trim the low hanging branches. Wendy will speak with the Highway Department and ask them to check the trails and parks for low hanging branches and trim them as needed. Wendy asked David to check the trails before the track team begins their season.

Kindergarten Registration: Parks and Recreation was invited to Kindergarten registration at Spaulding School. Wendy attended as a representative and distributed the spring brochure as well as informational flyers to the families. Wendy said it was a great night and asked to be invited back next year. Cindy suggested getting together with the representatives of the other organizations and making up a welcome wagon type of packet and have the school distribute them.

On-line Registration: Kerri inquired if online registration is being looked into. Kerri feels that it would be a lot more convenient for parents and it may reduce the number of late registrations. Wendy has been looking into this and feels that sometime in the future it will be available.

Brian made a motion to adjourn and Kerri seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leeayn Burke, Clerk