

MINUTES

**SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
April 11, 2012**

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, April 11, 2012, at 230-C Mountain Road, Suffield, CT., Conference Room.

ATTENDANCE:Lou Cashinghino, Chairman
.....Leeayn Burke, Clerk
.....Mike Roccanti
.....Kerri Milne
.....Cindy Nicholson
.....Bill Clark

ABSENT:Brian Casinghino
.....David Rusnock
.....Gerry Crane

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:Wendy J. LaMontagne, Director

Lou called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

PUBLIC INPUT: none

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

CORRESPONDENCE: none

PROGRAM REPORTS: none

OLD BUSINESS:

Budget: Wendy stated that the budget process is ongoing with nothing new to report concerning the Parks and Recreation budget.

Tennis Court Update: Wendy met with Jack Muska, who is heading the tennis court reconstruction project, the RFP's (request for proposals) were sent to four companies on March 27, and sealed bids are due back on April 24. Jack has met with two of the four companies in order to perform an onsite inspection of the courts so they can determine the scope of the work required.

Lou asked if the contractors are aware that Parks and Recreation wants one of the courts converted into mini courts. Wendy reported that they are aware of this and the bids went

out to add an alternate bid for installing the 4 mini courts. The bids will come back as a whole package for the four regulation courts and then with including the four mini courts.

The commission discussed the pros and cons of metal fencing versus netting to separate the regulation courts from the mini courts. The commission recommended the use of netting for the following reasons:

1. Lower cost to install the netting.
2. Netting is not a permanent structure.
3. Ease of converting to regulation size courts.
4. Parent's accessibility to their children.
5. Visually appealing and less confining when playing on the mini courts.

Wendy will advise Jack of these recommendations regarding netting instead of fencing.

Sand Volleyball Update: Wendy advised the commission that she spoke to the party that wanted to reserve the sand volleyball courts throughout the summer. The party is not planning on reserving the courts at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Summer Camps: The summer camp brochure has been distributed at locations throughout the town, on the town website and on the schools digital backpack. Wendy handed out the brochure to commissioners and complimented Marie on putting the brochure together and on the use of graphics. Wendy also complimented Cindy and Donna on their hard work on scheduling new and returning programs. Wendy was able to make arrangements with the Suffield Academy for the use of the Outdoor Learning Education Program. Tweens will be able to use the ropes and other elements as well as the climbing wall. The Parks and Recreation programs will be utilizing Spaulding School and the High School because the school is planning on keeping two schools closed for repair and maintenance.

Wendy has been working with the schools in regards to the enrichment programs. Among the new programs this year is Piellucci's Pottery and Friendship Bracelet Fun, for grades 3, 4 & 5 and Treasures from the Sea, for grades 2 & 3. Wendy is anticipating these programs to be among the favorites this year. Wendy advised the commission that this year we are offering an early bird drawing to encourage people to register early for programs. The winner will receive a credit toward one future 2012 Parks and Recreation program valued at \$10.00 - \$45.00.

Interviews for summer camp have been on going, the candidates this year are very good, well trained and it is a competitive process. The selection process will begin soon.

Miscellaneous:

Kerri had a parent inquire about indoor volleyball for kids, and asked if offering a kid's volleyball program was a possibility. Wendy informed her that gym space was limited

and unlikely at this time. Cindy mentioned that there may be an intramural volleyball program already in place at the Middle School.

Bill informed Wendy that the softball field at Bruce Park is a mess and has a lot of leaves around the backstop. Wendy will report it to the Highway Department.

Mike made a motion to adjourn and Cindy seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leeayn Burke, Clerk