

SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
July 8, 2015

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, July 8, 2015, in the lower level conference room, Town Hall, 83 Mountain Rd., Suffield, CT.

ATTENDANCE:Cindy Nicholson, Vice Chairman
.....Kerri Milne, Clerk
.....Jay Bombard
.....Leeayn Burke
.....Brian Casinghino
.....Amy Egan
.....David Rusnock

ABSENT:Lou Casinghino, Chairman
.....Bill Clark

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:.....Wendy J. LaMontagne, Director

Cindy chaired the meeting in Lou's absence.

Cindy called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

PUBLIC INPUT: Wendy introduced Adam McDonough, who is an 8th grade boy scout. Adam is here to observe the meeting in preparation for earning his merit badge in communications.

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

CORRESPONDENCE: Cindy said that she has been promoted to full member, replacing Jerry Crane and welcomed newly appointed Jay Bombard. Cindy said that Jay was on the commission before and has been through the programs. The commission welcomed Jay.

Wendy passed out flyers for the upcoming Cabaret on the Green, which is the summer concert on the green program. The Around the Town singers and orchestra will perform Wednesday, July 22 at 6:30. Wendy said that she wrote a grant to Friends of Suffield and the grant was awarded. The Around the Town singers and orchestra are performing at no charge but they have expenses which will be covered by the grant money.

PROGRAM REPORTS: Leeyan asked about sign-up numbers this year compared to last year. Wendy said that some of them are the same as last year but the one program that was low was Kids' Korner first session. Wendy found out that there is free reading

program which could account for the low numbers. The other camps are comparable with last year and some doing even better.

Dave asked about lifeguards – Wendy said that we have had no problem getting lifeguards. Leeyan asked about salary comparison. Wendy said that she has done a salary comparison and we are paying slightly more than the average.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bridge Street School – update: Wendy said that the Board of Finance had a meeting on Monday which was about bonding and most of the meeting centered on the road improvement bond money. The 3 bonding projects on the agenda are Roads, Town Hall Improvements and Bridge Street School Community Center. Wendy, Amy and Leeyan attended along with Beth Chafetz from the Bridge Street School Committee. Wendy reviewed the meeting. The commissioners discussed the meeting and how the Board of Finance wants to give the townspeople information that is easy to comprehend so they can make an informed decision when these bonding projects are voted on. The next meeting will be July 27.

Sports programs – Soccer sub committee update: Cindy said that the subcommittee met with Dan Ledger, volunteer parent representative and the only change in the rules is making kindergarten play 4 V 4 instead of 5 V 5. The other items are administrative, such as uniforms, scheduling, etc. The only rule change that was requested was the number of players for kindergarten.

Wendy said that she sent out the rules to all commissioners after the June meeting and did not receive any feedback. Dave wanted to know why we are going with 4 V 4 instead of 3 V 3 for kindergarten. Cindy said that this was the recommendation of the soccer association and is pretty much in line with the rest of country.

Dave and Jay recommended 3 V 3 for kindergarten teams; smaller fields, nets (cones), etc. Wendy said there could be a coaching issue if we have smaller teams and more of them. Cindy said that in her experience as a teacher the 4 V 4 would work. Dave explained why he felt it should be 3 V 3. Cindy said that this could be a change for next year. The commission talked about the pros and cons for the change in the number of players, the notifications that were sent out to the members from the subcommittee, who we should be looking to for information, and cost for changes recommended. Wendy suggested that we wait until August 3, the deadline for registration, so that we can determine how many children signed up and how many parents will volunteer to coach and then we can determine the size of the teams. Wendy read recommendations by USYS as she contacted YES soccer for this information for team sizes: Kindergarten plays 3 V 3, grades 1 & 2 plays 4 V 4, grades 3 & 4 plays 5 V 5, grades 5 & 6 plays 8 V 8 and grades 7 & plays 11 V 11. Wendy also reminded the commission that registration will be taken after the August 3rd date with a late fee.

Leeyan made a motion that given numbers and parent volunteers that we as a board recommend following the USYS guidelines for soccer size of teams and game structure. Brian seconded the motion. Dave asked if we should get information from other organizations, Wendy said that she reached out to this organization because they do our camps, clinics and know us and our program. Cindy said that we really don't have time this year to do that. Motion passed by 5 yes votes, with Dave and Leeayn voting no.

Cindy said that if we are going to make changes to the basketball program a subcommittee has to be formed now. Brian and Jay will work on the basketball subcommittee.

Wendy showed the commission a sample of the type of shirt that will be ordered for the soccer program. It has a sheen to it, a V neck with number on the back and more professional looking. Wendy said that the program was \$45 last year and this year the cost will be \$55. Brian asked about the increase and Wendy said that part of it is due to the increased cost of the shirt. Commission discussed referee scheduling and referee fees. Wendy said that for the kindergarten program she will use the young referees so they can get experience.

Cindy thanked Wendy for the work she has done for the program.

Wendy said that registration started July 1 and runs through August 3. Emails were sent to all of last year's participants and the people who are on our email list. Jay asked about a facebook page and Wendy said that at the present time we don't have enough time or staff to manage it, but it has been discussed.

The coaches meeting is being held on August 3.

Wendy said that she put an article in the Observer about the soccer program and registration but there also is a ½ page ad that was put in the paper, not by the Parks & Recreation department. Wendy is trying to find out who put the ad in the paper as some of the information in the ad is incorrect and was still being approved.

Wendy said that there is a facebook (Suffield) page and there are some parents who have expressed that they are not happy with the changes and are happy with the Park & Rec programs the way they have been. She shared some concerns by a parent, and Cindy also talked with this parent.

Summer Programs: Wendy said that she and Brian put together a pick-up basketball program for the summer. Brian said that the program has had 2 sessions with 14 coming to play. Cindy thanked Brian for the program because it is a great idea. Wendy said that she had a parent stop in and tell her how great the program is.

Wendy said that summer camps are into the 3rd week and if any commissioners would like to evaluate, please stop by and talk with staff and parents.

Babbs – update: Wendy said that the gentleman who was at the last meeting did contact her after the meeting to be sure he knew exactly what he needed but she has not heard from him and has not received the requested paperwork. Cindy said that she saw Gerry Crane and he said everything was all set. Leeyan suggested that Wendy contact CRC and see if there was a glitch on getting anything to us.

Road Race: The race will be run on September 12. The time was changed per Commission discussion last year to try and help with congestion at the Green. Wendy said she would really appreciate help with donations and also volunteers for the race day.

Wendy said she found out that the Friends of the Library are going to have its book sale at Sacred Heart church Friday, Saturday (race day) and Sunday so there may be a lot of traffic in both directions. Wendy has been in contact with the library director about this.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Leeyan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brian seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Scheitlin, recording secretary for
Kerri Milne, Clerk