

**SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
August 12, 2015**

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, August 12, 2015, in the lower level conference room, Town Hall, 83 Mountain Rd., Suffield, CT.

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

ABSENT:Leeayn Burke
.....Bill Clark

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:Wendy J. LaMontagne, Director

Lou called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

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

CORRESPONDENCE: Wendy read a letter from a customer complimenting Pam on all the help she gave this person who was having a problem registering for a program on line.

Wendy also received a request from Lisa Trase, assistant to the board of selectmen. She is looking for members of boards, commissions and departments to volunteer to man the Town Hall Booth at Suffield on the Green.

PROGRAM REPORTS: No comments

OLD BUSINESS:

Bridge Street School - update: Lou said that things are moving in the right direction. Cindy said that the adhoc committee has organized areas that members will canvass to try and show residents how beneficial this project will be for the town.

Wendy said that the Board of Finance had a special meeting on July 27 and they recommended that the Bridge Street School project proceed to a town meeting in the fall. The date for the town meeting has not been determined.

Wendy said that Krystal and Beth could not be at the meeting tonight but Wendy is relaying information for them. There will be a Bridge Street School booth at Suffield on the Green and they are asking for volunteers to man the booth. Cindy said that it is critical that at least one Parks and Recreation Commission member be present at all times to show a presence. Wendy will email a sign-up sheet so members can sign-up.

Wendy said Krystal is looking for attendance at an awareness fundraiser event with Ray Piogia in either late August or early September. There will be a BSS mailer and Krystal is looking for help with that, emails and door to door canvassing. Dave said that he is working on the older population to try and get their support.

Summer programs: Wendy said it was a great summer – 4 great directors and the staff was also very good. The waterfront is officially closed and over all a great summer season.

We had lower numbers in Kids Korner and Sunrise Camp compared to last year but higher numbers in the Tween Camp. The sports camps had higher enrollment than last year and also the crafty camps.

Wendy thanked Brian and Lou for the summer Pick-up Basketball program which was very successful. Wendy said that several moms have complimented the program. Lou said that Brian put a lot of time into the program. Brian said that Don Webb, Bob Leario, and Jason Lobo helped make the program a success.

Brian discussed the program along with advertising for next year and the possibility of having a paid person to open and close the program at the courts. Brian said that a few parents mentioned that they would like to have a second night during the week for the program. If a paid person is hired for next year the program would not be free. A free program versus a paid program and volunteers was discussed. The subject will be evaluated next year.

Babb's – update: Wendy said that she received a formal letter and plan from the gentlemen that were here in June regarding the horseshoe pits. They do have a signed letter of support from the CRC. The work will be done by hand instead of using machinery and they will contact 'call before you dig'. Wendy has informed Public Works of this project.

Road Race: The Road Race will be Saturday, September 12 and Wendy said she is looking for volunteers. The registration is slower than last year but it is expected we will get a lot on race day. Wendy said that the races have been turned around, per commission and last year's discussion so the 10K will start at 8:00 a.m. and the 5K at 10:00 a.m. Wendy said everything is lined up with police and ambulance. There have

been a lot of student volunteers who will be working as timers and at the water stops. Wendy said she needs volunteers to do the early morning tasks.

Wendy is looking for donations to be given out for the free raffle.

Soccer: Wendy said that the 1st preliminary coaches meeting was held last week with about 20 coaches. This meeting was to give the coaches information on the new things that are being done. People have a good perception that we are making changes. Wendy said Leeayn and Cindy N. attended the meeting.

Wendy said that she, Leeayn, and Cindy N. and Cindy F. met with Dan Ledger prior to the meeting to be sure we are all on the same page.

Wendy thanked Brian for the information on a new company for shirts, which came in less during the bid process. Wendy discussed the fields, where they will be and that she is working with the highway department to get them prepared.

Wendy said that so far this year we have 286 registrants. Last year we had a total of 260. Wendy is sure we will have more with late sign-ups. Cindy said that we are following the guidelines of US Soccer as the commission recommended.

The next coaches meeting is the 24th and the team rosters, equipment, etc. will be given out.

Brian asked about the registration numbers for grades 5 and 6. Wendy said they are very low and she and Cindy Fisher are trying to see how they can accommodate these children either with other towns, combining grades, etc. The commission discussed this situation. Wendy said we are not unique; other towns are also having this problem with the older grades.

NEW BUSINESS:

Brian said that he has seen kids skateboarding on the tennis courts and basketball courts at night and asked how we could get these kids over to the skateboard park. Cindy said that we have had this discussion before and we decided to ask the police to do a run through and tell them to go to the skatepark. Wendy said that she will be contacting the new police chief about this. Brian asked about adding lights to the skateboard park. Cindy said that we need to see how many kids use the park since the sport has declined some. Wendy said that the highway department did a great job refurbishing the skateboard park so if the kids say it isn't nice, it is now. Wendy said that lights would be very expensive. The commission discussed the pros and cons and ways to keep the skateboarders off the tennis and basketball courts. Wendy will have a sign made up and posted at the courts to refer kids to the skate park.

Lou discussed the cracks in the tennis and basketball courts, and that with winter coming, the cracks will get larger. The commission discussed the monies allotted for repairs, the

repairs that have been done, that A.C.C.E. no longer will fund it because it is considered maintenance. Discussion continued on where and how to get the courts repaired.

ADJOURNMENT: Kerri made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brian seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Scheitlin, recording secretary for
Kerri Milne, Clerk