

**SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
October 14, 2015**

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, October 14, 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
.....Leeayn Burke
.....Brian Casinghino
.....Amy Egan
.....David Rusnock

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:Wendy J. LaMontagne, Director
.....Krystal Holmes, Bridge St. Comm. Ctr. Comm.
.....Rob Spremolli, student from Asnuntuck College

Lou called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Wendy introduced Rob Spremolli who is a student at Asnuntuck Community College taking a class on State and Local Government and part of his class is to attend a government meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

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

CORRESPONDENCE: Wendy said the annual report has been completed and she will be sending it to the finance department.

PROGRAM REPORTS: Kerri asked about the number of participants in soccer and field hockey. Wendy said they have increased and discussed the structure of the field hockey program. Lou said that the field hockey program is a great feeder program for the school programs.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bridge Street School: Lou said that it is a great thing for Suffield and complimented Krystal on the hard work she did to promote this project.

Wendy said that the vote for the bonding for the project was 1,176 yes and 1,076 no. Krystal said that 25 to 30% of voters participated in the bond voting. Krystal reviewed the campaigning that was done to help promote a yes vote.

Krystal said that she has received a lot of emails requesting use of the facility once it is built. Krystal said that we have time to review and decide how we will develop and run the facility. The ground breaking for the building will be around 2 years from now. Since we have this time we should start now on policy planning, how we want to design the building, find out if we have any problems with the present building, etc. Krystal also suggested that we do a town survey to see what the public is looking for in a community center.

Cindy asked that the commission to formally thank Krystal for the work she has done. The commission applauded Krystal for her efforts.

Lou passed out a draft letter for the commission to review and edit. The letter is a thank you letter to the groups that have been involved with the community center project. Krystal said that an article will also be put in the Suffield Observer.

Lou proposed that we put together a committee to do research and report to the commission each month. Lou suggested that Wendy be on the committee, 3 people from the Parks & Recreation Commission, 3 people from the Friends of Bridge Street Community Center and 2 people from the general public. Lou asked Krystal to recommend who should be on the committee from the Friends of Bridge Street Community Center and the 2 people from the public. Lou also said that we need people who can visit various community centers during the day. The commission discussed the areas, topics and other items this committee would be reviewing, researching and recommending.

The commission discussed an appropriate name for the committee based on what the committee would be working on and it was decided that Bridge Street Community Center sub-committee would be best.

Cindy said we eventually need to re-visit the issue of a fulltime secretary. Lou said that there is no question that if we have a building that big we will have to have a fulltime secretary but it is too early to discuss now.

Cindy asked Krystal for a list of all Town meetings that should be attended by a Parks & Recreation Commission member.

Soccer: Wendy said that the program is in mid-season with only 1 rain-out. The feedback from parents has been good and they are happy with the accommodations we have made. The wrap up meeting for coaches is scheduled for November 4 so we can find out what went well, review any problems and resolve them now so we can improve upon the program once again next year.

The commission discussed comments from Jay and Dave in regard to concerns they have received from parents. Wendy reviewed what was done with these situations, what procedures were followed and items that need to be corrected. The commission discussed the program, the problems and solutions in detail. Consensus was that we are improving the program but it is a work in progress and there are some areas that need to be reined back in.

NEW BUSINESS:

Youth Basketball: Wendy said that registration will start later this month. Wendy said that some of the improvements to the program are being implemented. One of them is a new jersey with numbers on the back to help give the program a new image.

Wendy reviewed her meeting with Larry Plano, Mike Boswell and Jim Dion (president of Travel Basketball). Wendy said we have most of the times we requested but adult basketball and adult volleyball times are being switched. Wendy reviewed the schedule, times and how the programs (adult basketball and adult volleyball) will be held in the gyms to start. The commission discussed the School Board Policy regarding use of the gyms. The Parks and Recreation Department is 2nd in line for gym use. Leeayn felt very strongly that since the policy is not being followed we should contact the Board of Education to inform them of this. The commission discussed the time slots we have, what gyms are available and the fact that Travel Basketball is bumping us. The commission discussed this situation, the policy and what should be done. The consensus was to leave it alone for this year. Wendy will contact the superintendent of schools and bring these concerns up.

Wendy reviewed the comments from last year regarding the referees. Wendy said the training this year will incorporate those comments. Jay suggested pairing an experienced ref with a new ref to help train the new refs.

Wendy reminded the commission that next month's meeting date is changed due to the fact that November 11 is Veteran's Day and town offices are closed. The meeting will be held November 4 in the upper level conference room.

ADJOURNMENT: Jay made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cindy seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Scheitlin, recording secretary for
Kerri Milne, Clerk