

SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
December 9, 2015

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, December 9, 2015, at the residence of Lou Casinghino, 136 Marbern Drive, Suffield, CT.

ATTENDANCE:Lou Casinghino, Chairman
.....Cindy Nicholson, Vice Chairman
.....Kerri Milne, Clerk
.....Leeayn Burke
.....Brian Casinghino
.....David Rusnock
.....Scott Toby

ABSENT:Jay Bombard
.....Amy Egan

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:Wendy J. LaMontagne, Director
.....Melissa Mack, 1st Selectman

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

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

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

CORRESPONDENCE: Wendy said she received a donation from the Five Fathers Golf Tournament in memory of Steven Bombard. Carole (Bombard) Cobb presented the donation which is to be used for our youth basketball program which was Steven Bombard's love. Wendy has sent a thank you letter out.

PROGRAM REPORTS: Wendy added comments regarding the Special Needs Banquet which was held at the Suffield Country Club. Between special needs athletes and parents there were around 85 to 90 people present. Wendy thanked Donna for the great job she did putting this together.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Bridge Community Center Sub Committee: Lou said that we have to vote on who will be on the committee. Lou welcomed Melissa (1st Selectman) to the meeting.

The list of names to be voted on is:

Wendy LaMontagne, Parks & Recreation Director

Krystal Holmes, Chairperson
Brian Casinghino, Vice Chairperson
Cindy Nicholson
Donna Blanchette
Beth Chafetz, Secretary
Denise Nikolis
Fred Perdue
Lauren Life
Joe Sangiovanni
Patrick McMahon

Brian made a motion to accept the slate of individuals as the members of the Bridge Street Community Center Committee. Dave seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Lou said that any meetings or visitations can be attended by any of the commission members. There are minutes being posted at Town Hall of all the meetings.

Lou said we next need to approve goals.

1. Engage in site visits with other communities to learn best practices and see how their facilities flow.
2. Review programs offered in other communities and develop a program list for Suffield. The goal is to know the types of programs we will be offering so that when we design the building it can accommodate the programs we want. This will be an ever evolving thing.
3. Set policy for the community center.
4. In addition look to assist with the business structure of the Parks & Recreation department moving forward to help the department succeed in this new space.

The commission discussed this in detail. The commission added the following.

5. The committee will act collaboratively with all town agencies and departments involved in the process of completing the Bridge Street Community Center project.

Lou made a motion to accept the goals. Cindy seconded. The vote was unanimous.

a. **Bridge Street Community Center**: Wendy said that she has scheduled several tours to community centers in other towns. Wendy thanked the individuals at the Wethersfield Community Center where she and others toured last week.

Wendy said she has compiled a list of questions to be sent to the community centers before the tour and these answers provide good dialog during visits. Wendy said that a

lot of information and knowledge is gained from these visits. Brian and Wendy reviewed the visit to the Wethersfield Community Center in detail and the commission discussed.

Scott arrived at 7:25 p.m.

Wendy said that next week the tour is in Newington – both community center and senior center. The commission discussed this in terms of a campus. Wendy said that on the 16th the tour will be in Windsor.

Youth Basketball: Wendy said that the enrollment for this year is 255 players. The coaches meeting was Monday night with 25 coaches attending. Cindy N. and Jay attended. Cindy N. will be doing a referee clinic in January. Wendy discussed the situation with coaches, how she is trying to recruit, what grades we are having trouble getting coaches for. Wendy also discussed what she and Cindy F. are doing to try and have the older players (where we don't have a team) be able to play.

Wendy said that we will be getting new shirts this year. They have not been ordered because teams are not yet formalized.

Brian said he and Jay have met to discuss and research changes to the program. The goal is to make changes in the future that will help the program.

Brian said that he would also like to meet with the coaches at the end of the season to get their feedback. He would also like to be at last game of season to hand out evaluations.

Wendy discussed the situation with late sign-up players and parents who want them on certain teams. Wendy said we need to balance the teams and this makes it difficult to accommodate requests.

Summer Camps 2016: The commission voted on the summer camp bids.

Cindy made a motion to accept bid from Cressotti Baseball/Softball camp. Brian seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Kerri made a motion to accept bid from Tennis Sport for Life camp. Cindy seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Leeyan made a motion to accept bid from Basketball World camp. Dave seconded. Vote was unanimous.

The commission discussed the 3 companies that bid for our summer soccer camp.

Brian made a motion to accept bid from Yes Soccer camp. Scott seconded. The vote was unanimous.

A.C.C.E.: The commission discussed the tennis/basketball courts, the condition of the tennis/basketball courts, money that was allocated for repairs and then not provided, etc. Also discussed was the fact that money for repairs is no longer in the A.C.C.E. budget. A.C.C.E. has noted that this is a repair/maintenance issue and not a capital expenditure. The money that was originally marked for repairs was not used and discussion continued on where it is and if it is available.

Wendy passed out last years proposed A.C.C.E. budget request for the commission to review. The request covers the Babbs project and the phases and will be adjusted accordingly for the new proposal. Wendy said that our request will be presented to A.C.C.E. on January 21 at town hall.

Melissa said that she and Patrick McMahon (Economic Development Director) are working on a grant for Babbs. Melissa said that if we can get it, it would help jump start the Babbs project.

Brian made a motion to support town funding as necessary to repair the tennis/basketball courts at the Family Rec Complex appropriately apportioned between the town and board of education. Dave seconded. Vote was unanimous.

2016 Meeting Schedule: The meeting schedule for the 2016 Parks and Recreation Commission was passed out. Wendy said that the only date that may be a conflict is in May due to the Town Meeting date.

Leeayn made a motion to accept the 2016 meeting schedule for the Parks and Recreation Commission. Kerri seconded. The vote was unanimous.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Scheitlin, recording secretary for
Kerri Milne, Clerk