

**SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
October 12, 2016**

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, October 12, 2016, in the lower level conference room, Town Hall, 83 Mountain Rd., Suffield, CT.

ATTENDANCE:Lou Casinghino, Chairman
.....Cindy Nicholson, Vice Chairman
.....Bill Boucher
.....Leeayn Burke, Clerk
.....Brian Casinghino
.....David Rusnock
.....Scott Tobey

ABSENT:Jay Bombard

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:Wendy J. LaMontagne, Director

Lou called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Lou welcomed Bill Boucher to the commission. Bill replaced Kerri.

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

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

CORRESPONDENCE: Wendy welcomed Bill Boucher to the commission. Wendy said that she has sent a welcome package to Bill. Wendy said that she received a resignation letter from Amy letting us know that her school commitments made it difficult for her to continue with the commission. She thanked everyone for the time she has spent on the commission.

Wendy said that Mike Rocconti sent a thank you letter for the plaque at Sunrise Park in memory of his wife. Wendy read the letter to the commission.

Wendy reported that a donation has been received from Mrs. Seger and Ellen Seger for the road race. They thanked us for keeping the race in honor of her husband. The donation is for next year's race.

PROGRAM REPORTS: No comments

OLD BUSINESS:

Babbs update: There was a re-dedication of Babbs with representation from various political people, a member of the Babbs family and members of the community. Melissa Mack (1st Selectman) presented and thanked the highway department and others who helped make this project a success.

Wendy said the Babbs subcommittee, (Leeayn, Cindy Nicholson, Wendy, Cindy Fisher and Gerry Crane (ad hoc member), met last week to start establishing ideas for next year's opening. The subcommittee asked the commission for their input and for parameters for them to use as a guideline. The committee will meet with the 1st selectman and plan together. The commission discussed some of the items that will need to be addressed. Cindy thanked Wendy for the list of items she prepared for discussion.

Bridge Street Community Center update: Wendy said that the ad hoc committee met yesterday to discuss the tri-board meeting held on September 26th. The tri-board meeting covered bonding, and finance for the 3 bonded projects: town hall, roads and community center.

Lou discussed the overall positive feedback from the meeting and that the project is moving forward. The commission discussed this in more detail.

Brian said the fundraising organization for the community center has been incorporated and officers appointed. Fundraising is on hold until the project gets underway.

Fall Soccer: Wendy said the program is going well with one rainout so far. Dave said that he has received good comments on the 3 V 3 play which was instituted this year. Scott said that conforming to USA regulations helps in discussions on why we are using this format.

Wendy said that we have had issues and Scott and Jay have volunteered to assist in polling coaches on what is working and what is not. Wendy reviewed a solution for next year's practice day options and time slots for Saturday games. Wendy said that next year the signup period will be expanded to accommodate parents and hope that we get less late sign ups. Scott said that a survey will be sent to coaches first and then parents. Cindy said that the coaches' response should have more weight since we rely on them to make the program work.

Wendy thanked Scott and Jay for their help. Scott and Jay will help more with this large program as Dan won't be involved next year. This should work to our advantage having commission members involved in the program.

Youth Basketball: Wendy said registration will start later this month and Cindy Fisher has confirmation from the school online reservation program in regard to gym use. Wendy reviewed game and practice times. She said that we have relinquished the Monday night gym time since the adult program will not be held. This should give more gym time for school and/or travel basketball programs. Brian asked if travel basketball

gives information to Parks and Rec on what youth don't make the travel team. Wendy said that she will contact travel basketball and let them know when our registration starts to encourage children who did not make the travel teams to play Parks and Rec.

The commission discussed the gym times for adult volleyball and the pros and cons of changing the time slot. Some members thought it would be ok to move the time up for adult volleyball and others felt it would be a detriment.

Brian discussed expanding the time slots so youth have more time to play. Cindy said that this was discussed last year. Right now we don't know if Monday is available anymore. Brian said that he and Jay need to present their suggestions for the program but it might be too late for this season.

Lou suggested that they have concrete suggestions before this weekend. Commission discussed how it would affect parents if practice days are not on the registration form and it will be online after next week.

NEW BUSINESS:

Scare It Up Suffield: Wendy said that we have 11 entries so far, 6 of which are local businesses. Wendy described what the P&R scarecrow will look like and what items she needs from Commissioners. The scarecrows will be put up in front of the Senior Center next week. The event will be held on Saturday the 22nd with a movie, face painting, thriller dancing, etc. Wendy asked for a member to volunteer as a judge for the competition. Brian volunteered. Wendy said that the Rotary Club has donated money for prizes. If a town department wins we are asking them to donate the money to charity. The commission discussed how this could grow into a bigger event.

ADJOURNMENT: Scott made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brian seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Scheitlin, recording secretary for
Leeayn Burke, Clerk