

**SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
MONTHLY MEETING  
November 9, 2016**

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, November 9, 2016 in the lower level conference room, Town Hall, 83 Mountain Rd., Suffield, CT.

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

ABSENT: David Rusnock

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Wendy J. LaMontagne, Director

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

**PUBLIC INPUT:** None.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Wendy said that the Human Resource Department and Selectmen's office have made adjustments to persons taking the minutes for boards and commissions. There will be a uniform flat fee paid to these persons and Carol is one of those and she has been made aware of it.

Our department received a thank you note from Emergency Aide. Our department and other town hall departments that won cash prizes at the Scare it up Suffield scarecrow contest donated their winnings to Emergency Aide.

Wendy said that she received an email this afternoon from Brian, Jay and George Van Cott regarding the basketball program and it will be discussed later in the meeting.

**PROGRAM REPORTS:** No comments

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Babbs – update:** Wendy said that the subcommittee was scheduled to meet tomorrow and Melissa (1<sup>st</sup> Selectman) contacted Wendy to reschedule the meeting until December. Melissa has some other pressing items to work on and she wanted to properly plan and prepare for this meeting.

**Bridge Street Community Center – update:** The subcommittee meeting will be next Tuesday and Wendy invited anyone interested to come. The RFP for the architect and construction manager are being worked on and they are still waiting to start abatement.

Brian said that the 501c3 is incorporated in the State of Connecticut and paperwork for the Federal filing is being worked on.

**Fall Soccer:** Wendy said that the season ended and a coaches wrap up meeting was held with Scott and 15 coaches attending. Wendy said that she received a lot of good comments and feedback. The 3v3 play was favorable, and coaches would like to see field size increase with grades 3 & 4 and 5 & 6. Also discussed were the rules and referee calls and having scheduled refs show up for games. Wendy discussed concerns by the coaches with large teams and what we are trying to do to get people to sign-up on time so we can determine smaller team size before season starts. Next year's registration will start in June to get parents to sign up while children are still in school. Jay discussed comments he has received and suggested having an experienced coach with a new coach.

Wendy reported that coaches requested an additional clinic for coaches and next year there will be 2 clinics and a new clinic for the youth.

Scott said that Wendy did a good job at the meeting and that on some issues after they were explained there was no consensus.

Wendy reviewed options for next year based on this year's challenges. Designating practice nights, creating more fields, developing game schedule with same times for specific grades all season, which can help for coaches who have children in different grades and ways we can try and get referees to commit to the job.

**Youth Basketball:** Wendy said that registration started 3 weeks ago and our numbers are pretty good.

Wendy reviewed an email sent to her today by Brian, Jay and George Van Cott. Jay explained how criteria for suggestions was gathered.

Brian reviewed each of the items listed in the letter and the commission discussed them. Cindy commented on starting the program in December and her concerns. Cindy said that the schools are very busy in December with many events going on. Brian suggested using the gyms on Sunday (if available) to start the program early. Cindy said Sunday would cost more since the janitors would get paid time and a half on Sunday.

Wendy said that the item regarding clinics has already been addressed. We have already setup a clinic with Wins for Life for coaches and can schedule a clinic for the children.

Items discussed in more detail were: combining grades 5 thru 8 and playing other towns, ways to recruit high school youth for referees, other options for finding referees and

referee training. Wendy asked Brian, Jay and George to visit the program on Saturdays and observe the referees and also review the program rules and make suggestions.

**Scare it up Suffield:** Wendy said the event was very successful. There were 23 entries. Brian volunteered to be a judge and Wendy thanked him. Wendy said that there was a lot of feedback that this was good for the town. The four departments that put the event together met to review this year's event and plan next years.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Summer Camp Proposals 2017:** Wendy passed out information on the RFPs sent out for the 2017 summer athletic camps.

Three RFPs were sent out for baseball/softball camp with only 1 response.

Cindy made a motion to accept Cressotti's Baseball/Softball Clinics for the 2017 summer baseball/softball program. Brian seconded. The vote was unanimous

Four RFPs were sent out for basketball camp with only 1 response.

Cindy made a motion to accept Basketball World for the 2017 summer basketball camp. Scott seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Five RFPs were sent out for soccer camp. Two companies responded. Wendy compared the two companies. Parks and Recreation has used Y.E.S. Soccer Camp in the past and recommends them.

Brian made a motion to accept Y.E.S. Soccer Camp for our 2017 summer soccer camp. Cindy seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Only 1 RFP was sent out for the tennis camp. Wendy said that there aren't many tennis camps and Tennis Sport for Life has worked with Parks and Recreation for 21 years and are recommended.

Brian made a motion to accept Tennis Sport For Life for our 2017 summer tennis camp. Cindy seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Lou said that the December meeting will be held at his residence as we have done in the past. Wendy will contact everyone to coordinate what they will bring.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Brian made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Leeayn seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Scheitlin, recording secretary for

Leeayn Burke, Clerk