

RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
June 22, 2011

Attending: K. Conway; C. Grillo; M. Michalski; B. Parker; V. Parkus; T. Quinn
Absent: C. Deming; J. Gowac; M. Roberts; E. Smith

Brad Parker called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The Commissioners reviewed the minutes from the April 21, 2011 meeting. MR. PARKUS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 21, 2011 MEETING AS WRITTEN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. GRILLO AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Quinn advised that there was no Treasurer's report and the Commissioners agreed to table this agenda item.

Guest and Audience

There were no guests or audience in attendance.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence to discuss.

Committee Reports

A. Music on the River

Mr. Parker reported that the first Music on the River concert is scheduled for July 11th and that everything is in place for the event. Ms. Quinn advised that they are currently \$1500 below what they need for expenses but that they expect to cover that from the donations collected at the concerts.

In response to a question from Mr. Conway, she advised that they had realized a savings of approximately \$600 by soliciting donations for the concerts through the Events Magazine rather than a direct mail appeal. They discussed a glitch in the original mailing and that resulted in the Lake Hayward residents receiving their copy of the Events Magazine a little late.

There was a general discussion regarding setting up the risers for the July concert.

Director's Report

Ms. Quinn reported on the following:

- She needs additional life guards and a certified swim instructor for the Town Beach. She advised that she has lined up someone to do swim instruction, but the person is not Red Cross certified. She noted that the individual had been certified in the past and that parents will be advised of the instructor's qualifications at the first class.

- Ms. Quinn noted some of the problems that had been encountered with travel basketball last season and advised that she plans to establish criteria for coaches this year that she hopes will eliminate the issues and raise the level of the experience for the players.
- The Recreation Commission currently sponsors a fundamentals of basketball program for 2nd graders and Ms. Quinn recommended hiring Ms. Ryczek to expand the program to kindergarten and 1st graders. She stated that Ms. Ryczek ran a similar program in Portland that focused mainly on passing and dribbling and less on shooting and was very successful. She advised that the program would also need adult volunteers to assist Ms. Ryczek. The Commissioners agreed with Ms. Quinn's recommendation hire Ms. Ryczek to expand the Fundamentals of Basketball program.

Mr. Parkus stated that there is equipment that can be purchased that allows the backboard and hoop to be lowered from the standard height. Ms. Quinn suggested funds can be requested in a future budget for such equipment.

- Day camp registration continues to be low but may increase as the date for camp gets closer. Ms. Quinn stated she is still comfortable with the level of staffing she has hired.
- The monthly on-line newsletter has been well received. Ms. Quinn stated she may add an article about how Recreation programs are scheduled and what causes them to be cancelled in the July edition.
- She has not been able to work on setting up Junior Recreation Commission. The program will be underwritten by a United Way grant.

Old Business

A. Town Beach Repairs

Ms. Quinn reported that the restrooms at the Town Beach will have new walls, new electrical and underground wires from the pole, a new water tank, epoxy floors, a new ventilation system on a timer, a new roof, and new stalls. She stated that she expects the work will be completed shortly after the beach opens and that port-a-potties will be used until then. She advised that no work is being done to the office.

There was a general discussion about when the lake will be brought back up to its regular level. Ms. Quinn also noted that the sand has shifted away from the beach area over time and that she will ask Public Works to move it back.

B. Dog Park

Ms. Quinn reported that she awarded the fence work for the dog park to the low bidder. She noted that two bids had come in and there was an \$800 difference between the two. She advised that work on the fence will begin July 1st.

C. Tennis Courts

Ms. Quinn stated that the contractor for the dog park fence will also repair the fence at the tennis courts. She advised that she is also having the net-posts repaired and will replace the nets. In response to a question from Mr. Parker, she stated that no work on the court is scheduled for this year but that they will need to be re-done eventually.

D. Heritage Park

There was no update on this agenda item.

E. Playground at Nichols Field

Ms. Quinn reported that the grand opening of the new playground went very well and that the new plaque had been installed and flowers were planted around it.

F. Skateboard Park

Ms. Quinn reported that there was a public hearing at the last Planning & Zoning Commission meeting to discuss the plans to build a skate park next to the tennis courts at the old Middle School. She stated that P&Z requested she get (1) a letter from the Middle School Conversion Committee advising of their position on the proposed plans, (2) that she provide P&Z with information on the signs that will be posed at the park and a formal drawing of the park, and (3) she submit a rider stating the work done in the parcel next to the Senior Center will be rectified. She advised that it was not clear what P&Z wants done at the old site.

There was a general discussion about the work that had been done at the site next to the Senior Center and the Commissioners agreed to wait until P&Z advises what they want rectified there before doing another site visit to locate the drainage pipes.

G. Youth Music Festival

Ms. Quinn reported that there were 20 bands that participated in the Youth Music Festival at the Town Beach and there were 320 people in the audience. In general, everyone was well behaved and she was very happy with the event. Ms. Quinn stated that next year she would like more parent volunteers to help organize, set-up and chaperone at the event. Mr. Conway advised that he had been at the event for a short while and that it looked like everyone was having a good time.

H. Teen Travel Camp

Ms. Quinn stated that sign-ups are low for the Teen Travel Camp program but she expects to receive more registrations before the program begins. She noted that the other participating towns may fill some of the open registrations.

I. Senior Project

Ms. Quinn reported that Pat Miett's and Zack Lefemina's Let's Play Senior Project, a Parks & Rec program for special ed students, went very well and the parents, in particular, loved it. She said she will try to find high school volunteers to organize the program again in the fall and spring.

Ms. Quinn also advised that Susan Wrinn had contacted her about doing a unified sports team and she would like to tie it into the Let's Play program. She stated she will do more research on unified sports team programs.

J. Youth Advisory Committee

Ms. Quinn listed the Youth Advisory Committee members and noted that they have already met several times. She reported that they plan to have a guest speaker from Sports International for the Committee's October meeting and stated the meeting will be open to East Haddam parents and representatives from the surrounding towns' recreation and sports programs. Ms. Quinn stated that Parks & Rec's contribution for the cost of the speaker will be about \$200 and suggested some ways that they could raise the money.

New Business

There was no New Business discussed.

Adjournment

There being no additional business to discuss, MR. GRILLO MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MICHALSKI AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon R. Wheeler
Recording Secretary