

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2015

Attending: M. Colpoys; C. Deming; J. Gowac; M. Michalski; W. Parkus; T. Quinn
Absent: M. Francese; C. Grillo; M. Roberts; E. Smith
Guests: P. Laffin; S. Wheeler

Mr. Parkus called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Guests & Audience

Mr. Parkus welcomed Mr. Laffin to the meeting and asked him to update the Commissioners on the status of the disk golf project. Mr. Laffin advised that site visits were made to Nicols Field and the Town Beach as potential locations for the disk golf course. He stated that the area at the Town Beach is much smaller than the area at Nicols Field and the parking would be limited because of beach traffic. He noted a much shorter course would have to be installed at the Town Beach and it would not be as attractive to disk golfers as one that could be installed at Nicols Field.

Mr. Laffin said that their disk golf Facebook page was getting a good deal of response and that approximately 30 people who visited the page volunteered to help construct the course. A map of the proposed layout of a course at Nicols Field was reviewed by Mr. Laffin and the Commissioners. Mr. Laffin advised that the \$15,000.00 the Town budgeted for the project would be sufficient to purchase materials and install the course. He responded to several questions from the Commissioners.

MR. GOWAC MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY DR. COLPOYS, TO SUPPORT THE CHOICE OF NICOLS FIELD AS THE LOCATION FOR THE DISK GOLF COURSE. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Mr. Laffin and Ms. Quinn discussed scheduling time for the disk golf organizers to provide instruction on the game at day camp.

Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting of May 14, 2015

The Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 14, 2015.

MS. DEMING MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. MICHALSKI TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 14, 2015 REGULAR MEETING AS WRITTEN. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Quinn reported that there is approximately \$21,000.00 remaining in the Parks and Recreation Commission's budget, of which \$15,500.00 is allocated for salaries. She noted that program expenses and revenue show a net profit of approximately \$3,445.00 and she expects to end the year in the black.

MR. GOWAC MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MS. DEMING TO ACCEPT THE TREASURER'S REPORT AS PRESENTED. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Committee Reports

- Open Space – There was no update on this agenda item.

- Music On The River – Ms. Quinn reported that the first concert is scheduled for July 6th and that Dattco has donated a bus and driver for the concerts. Ms. Quinn noted that Mr. Walter stated he would purchase signs for the event.
- Basketball- Travel/Rec Basketball – Ms. Quinn stated that the sub-committee should schedule a meeting in the near future.

Old Business

- Needs Assessment – Ms. Quinn advised that she will send a follow-up message to people who responded to the Needs Assessment that addresses some of the common questions/comments.
- Disk Golf – This item was discussed earlier in the meeting and is reported on in the above minutes.
- Day Camp – Ms. Quinn reported that parents have given her positive feedback on the changes to the day camp program.
- Field Use Policy (Updated) – Ms. Quinn reported that she removed language from the policy concerning a requirement that the organizations' submitting a Field Use application provide proof that they have done background checks on their volunteers and that she has started using the new policy.
- Bulletin Board – Elementary School – Several of the Commissioners stated that they have seen the new Parks & Recreation bulletin board at the Elementary School and thought it was well done.
- Summer Staff Update – There was no update on this agenda item.
- Summer Programs Update – Ms. Quinn reported that Summer Program packets were sent home with all of the East Haddam School children. She advised that a list of summer programs will also be included in her regular newsletter.

New Business

- Program Policy – Ms. Quinn reiterated the list of criteria required for Rec programs.
- Volunteer Policy – Ms. Quinn stated that she does not have a Volunteer Policy in writing yet, but has been using the Coaches Policy for volunteers.
- Facilities Update – Ms. Quinn reported that Facilities Director Mansfield has resigned to accept another position. She noted that not many of the items on her maintenance and repairs list have been completed and that maintenance and upgrades to Nicols Field have not been done for the past two years. She stated that she has purchased new benches for the dug outs at the field and they will be installed when the new steps are put in.
- Town Beach – Ms. Quinn reported that several citizens have expressed concern about the herbicide treatment done to Moodus Reservoir. She noted that the Parks & Rec Department was not involved in that project; it was done by the Moodus Lake Association and CT DEEP. She stated, however, that she has requested a letter from the State Toxicology Department stating the chemicals used to treat the Reservoir are safe.

Other/Next Meeting

Ms. Quinn stated that she provided Mr. Walter with a bullet point list of the benefits of having an additional gym for Rec programs if the proposal to convert the Old Middle School to municipal offices passes referendum and stated she would send a copy of the list to the Commissioners.

Ms. Quinn advised that the next meeting date is scheduled for July 9, 2015. There was no additional business discussed at the meeting.

MR. GOWAC MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. MICHALSKI TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. UNANIMOUS AYE.

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Sharon R. Wheeler
Recording Secretary