

**East Haddam Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2018**

Attending: M. Colpoys; M. Davis; C. Grillo; W. Parkus; T. Pisciotti; M. Roberts; L. Conroy

Absent: D. Carbo; M. Francese; P. Laffan

Guests: B. Parker; L. Wood; S. Wheeler

Mr. Parkus called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Guests & Audience

Mr. Parkus introduced Mr. Boynton who proposed that the newly renovated gymnasium in the Municipal Office Building be named after Mr. Brad Parker in honor of all that he has done for the Town and, in particular, the Recreation Commission. Mr. Boynton provided some background on Mr. Parker's involvement with the Recreation Commission and there was a general discussion concerning which recreation site to name in his honor.

MR. GRILLO MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY DR. COLPOYS, TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN THAT THE GYMNASIUM IN THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE BUILDING BE NAMED "THE BRAD PARKER GYMNASIUM" IN RECOGNITION OF HIS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN AND THE RECREATION COMMISSION. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Mr. Parkus recognized Mr. Wood who thanked the Commissioners for adding pickle ball to its list of programs. He suggested posting notices about the program in the Municipal Offices and the Senior Center. There was a general discussion regarding the registration fee as well as scheduling an open house where people could participate at no cost and Mr. Wood and other players could offer a beginners' clinic.

Approval of Minutes – April 9, 2018 Regular Meeting

The Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the regular meeting of April 9, 2018 and Mr. Grillo noted one change to be made.

DR. COLPOYS MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MS. PISCOPTTO, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 9, 2018 REGULAR MEETING AS AMENDED. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports discussed at the meeting.

Director's Report – Ms. Conroy reported on the following:

- a. Gym ready as of Friday, June 1st at 1:00pm – The renovations to the gym have been completed and she has received requests to schedule co-ed and girls-only (9-12 grade) basketball in the gym.
- b. MOR update – Dattco donated a shuttle bus for use during the scheduled programs; approximately \$10k has been received in donations and a solicitation letter is being sent to local businesses. She is currently working on t-shirts, a banner and drafting a brochure for the events.
- c. New programs of interest – She is working on a number of potential new programs, including: co-ed adult basketball, hula hooping, camps, cooking classes, pickle ball, and a youth open gym program. She further noted that the East Haddam Arts League has expressed interest in offering art classes and Gillette Castle will be decorated and open for the holidays and asked if the Rec Commission would like to sponsor some type of event at the Castle during that period.

Ms. Conroy reported that she is also working with the Escapades group from Killingworth to create a science related program for toddlers. She added that she is looking into creating a flag football program in the fall.

- d. Tennis Courts – The Municipal Offices Building Committee has advised her that they have the funds to renovate the tennis courts and she will ask them to also paint pickle ball lines on the new courts.
- e. Tag Sale – She stated that she would like to organize a Town-wide tag sale in the fall.
- f. Summer Camp – Registrations are beginning to come in and she is trying to get year-to-date details from last year to determine if the program is on track. She is looking into utilizing electronic media to assist with registrations and the check in/check out procedure. She would like the database to include emergency contact info and any medical red flags for each camper.
- g. Lifeguard/Town Beach – Five lifeguards were hired and she has been getting good feedback on them. She purchased ?? for the AED system and a new rescue board.
- h. Dog Park – The dog park has been re-seeded and the lock issues have been resolved. She would like to encourage a self-monitoring community for the park and, to that end, has stored equipment there to fill in holes made by the dogs. She was contacted by an individual who has extensive knowledge about dog agility training and is considering offering the program at the park.

Ms. Conroy further reported that the Police Union donated two picnic tables and umbrellas for the skate park area. She stated that she is also researching the cost of installing security cameras at the park.

Ms. Piscioti advised that the previous Recreation Commission Director had suggested renting the new gymnasium out for children's birthday parties. There was a general discussion regarding the idea and the Commissioners agreed that such a program could be profitable.

New Business

- a. June 19th Planning & Zoning meeting regarding fields MOC – Ms. Conroy advised that there has been some discussion regarding upgrading the fields behind the Municipal Office Building. She noted that this topic will be discussed at the Planning & Zoning Commission’s June meeting and solicited the Commissioners’ opinions regarding what their current interest is in renovating the fields. There was a general discussion regarding this topic and it was generally agreed that it is not essential, at this time, to make major improvements to the fields.

- b. Rec Commission Members – Ms. Conroy reported that the terms for Mr. Parkus and Dr. Colpoys are expiring and they have indicated that they will not be renewing them. She noted that she has several people that have expressed interest in applying to serve on the Commission.

- c. Rec Commission Summer Meeting Dates - Ms. Conroy noted that, during the summer months, the Monday night meetings conflict with the Music on the River events and recommended changing the meeting day for that period. She also suggested cancelling the July meeting. The Commissioners agreed with her suggestion to cancel July’s meeting and agreed to re-schedule the August meeting to the 9th.

Mr. Davis reported that he has facilitated several CPAC classes in the Rec Commission’s meeting room and has received uniformly positive feedback regarding the facilities.

THERE BEING NO ADDITIONAL BUSINESS DO DISCUSS, MR. GRILLO MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MS. COLPOYS, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. UNANIMOUS AYE.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

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