

**East Haddam Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2019**

Attending: D. Carbo; C. Grillo; P. Laffan; C. Miner; T. Piscioti; L. Conroy

Absent: M. Davis; S. Kraszewski; M. Larson; M. Roberts

Guests: K. Blanchard; S. Blanchard; B. Hitriz; S. Wheeler; L. White, and other members of the public

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

Guests & Audience

Ms. White, Ms. Hitriz, Ms. Blanchard and Mr. Blanchard introduced themselves and stated that they are members of the East Haddam Special Needs Parents group. Ms. White expressed concern about the impact of the Commissioners' decision to cut-off participation in the summer camp program after 8th grade on special needs students. It was noted that there is a gap between 8th grade and when the students can participate in work development programs and there was a general discussion regarding the need to have recreation programs for them so that they continue to have the opportunity to socialize with their peers.

Recreation Director Conroy stated that she is supportive of creating programs for special needs families and reviewed the research she had done regarding what other CT towns provide. The group brainstormed several ideas and Ms. Conroy agreed to look into scheduling an evening kickball program, "under the lights", at one of the school fields.

Ms. Conroy stated she would like to create a sub-committee to research and recommend appropriate programs. Mr. Carbo agreed to chair the sub-committee. Mr. Miner stated that it would be important for the group to identify what goals they hope the programs will achieve. Ms. Blanchard noted that, as a special needs parent, she has missed the sense of community shared by other parents through participation in typical school and after-school programs and she is encouraged that the Rec Commission may now provide that for her family.

The group discussed ways to publicize the special needs programs and the possibility of partnering with the Board of Education and Youth & Family Services on programs and/or publicity. Ms. Conroy thanked the parents for coming to speak to the Rec Commissioners about their concerns.

Approval of Minutes – February 26, 2019 Special Meeting

The Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the special meeting of February 26, 2019.

MS. PICIOTTI MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. LAFFAN, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 26, 2019 SPECIAL MEETING AS WRITTEN. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Committee Reports

The follow committee reports were discussed at the meeting:

Music On The River – Ms. Conroy reported that the committee has finalized its choices of bands and she is now drafting a donor solicitation letter that will be mailed out.

Sports – In response to a question raised by Ms. Piscioti, Ms. Conroy advised that NFL Play 60 flag football has been scheduled for this year; however, she will look into the Skyhawks program for next year.

Director Report

a. Spring and Summer Program Update – Ms. Conroy provided the following update:

- She circulated a copy of the Noises Sports Academy summer sports camp flier.
- Ms. Kraszewski accepted the position of summer camp director and has, therefore, submitted her resignation from the Recreation Commission.
- The adult co-ed softball league will play at Nicols Field on Thursday nights beginning in May through the end of July.

Old Business

No old business was discussed at the meeting.

New Business

- a. Budget 2019-20 – Ms. Conroy reviewed the status of the Rec Commission's proposed budget and encouraged the Commissioners to speak with Town officials about their desire to renovate the tennis courts.
- b. Disk Golf Tournament – Mr. Carbo advised that the Steady Habits brewery is sponsoring a disk golf tournament in August. He noted that the proceeds from the event will be donated to the Rec Commission's disk golf fund.
- c. Rec Commission resignation submission retraction – Ms. Conroy advised that there are several membership changes: Mr. Carbo has rescinded his resignation from the Commission and, as she noted earlier in the meeting, Ms. Kraszewski has submitted her resignation. Ms. Conroy noted that Mr. Blanchard has expressed interest in joining the Commission.

MR. LAFFAN MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. MINER, TO RECOMMEND, WITH REGRET, THAT THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN ACCEPT MS. KRASZEWSKI'S RESIGNATION FROM THE RECREATION COMMISSION AND TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN THE APPOINTMENT OF STEVE BLANCHARD TO THE RECREATION COMMISSION. UNANIMOUS AYE.

It was noted that since Mr. Carbo's resignation had not been formally accepted, there was no need to pass a motion to overturn it.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sharon R. Wheeler
Recording Secretary