

RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
November 17, 2011

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

Also Present: Arrived at 7:25 p.m. – A. Bellow; C. Cecceri; C. Cepelak; D. Dutch; R. Estep; S. Freeman; C. Gubbins; L. Hober; K. Iozzia; S. Jezek; D. Marzano; D. Navetta; C. Peterson; J. Phillips; B. Solinski; K Urban; R. Urban; N. Walker

Brad Parker called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The Commissioners reviewed the minutes from the September 11, 2011 meeting. MR. GOWAC MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2011 MEETING AS WRITTEN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. MICHALSKI AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Gowac advised that he was unable to interpret the information provided by the Town's Finance Department and the Commissioners agreed to table this agenda item.

Guest and Audience

Members of the Boot Camp program attended the meeting and discussions regarding the program are reported below in these minutes under Agenda item 9A – New Business, Boot Camp.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence to discuss.

Committee Reports

A. Music on the River

Ms. Deming reported that there is \$4,133.80 remaining in the budget to start the 2012 Music on the River season. Mr. Parker reported that the Committee had decided to focus more on local talent next year rather than cover bands. He also stated that they agreed to do a mailing announcing the 2012 Music on the River schedule rather than rely on an article in the Events Magazine.

Director's Report

Ms. Quinn reported on the following:

- Try-outs for Travel Basketball were being held tonight.
- She would like to add funds to the 2012/13 budget for an adult Beach supervisor who is trained in Lifeguarding and WSI, and will supervise all of the lifeguards, teach swimming lessons, and handle the scheduling.

- In lieu of a part-time administrative assistant, she suggested increasing the Program Supervisor budget line to accommodate more office and program duties. The Commissioners agreed with her suggestion.
- She presented an alternative method for establishing fees for the Recreation Commission programs and the Commissioners agreed she should continue to develop the concept so that, if it makes sense, they can incorporate it into their 2012/13 budget planning.
- The morning Boot Camp instructor has accepted a full-time job and will need to be replaced.
- Ms. Quinn stated that the fence and net-post work at the tennis courts has been completed. She advised that she had also received a quote of \$76,000.00 to completely replace the courts; however, she has asked Sullivan Paving to provide an alternate quote for repairs to the asphalt.
- The CT DEP donated 12 picnic tables to the Town which are being refurbished and will be placed in several of the Town's parks and playgrounds.

Old Business

A. Town Beach Repairs

Ms. Quinn reported that the repairs to the restrooms are complete; however, she was disappointed that the Building Inspector required the electrical disconnect to be placed on the outside of the building.

B. Skateboard Park

Ms. Quinn reported that, due to inclement weather this summer, the contractor has not finished a number of his projects. She stated that, in order to avoid any added expense that would come from starting construction in the cold weather, she has instructed him not to begin work on the East Haddam skateboard park until spring. The contractor agreed that East Haddam's project would be his first spring project.

New Business

A. Boot Camp

Mr. Parker welcomed the members of the Boot Camp program and thanked them for coming to the meeting. He stated that he wanted to assure them that the Commissioners have no intention of disbanding the program but they do have concerns about several safety-related issues. He advised that the Commissioners agree that the Boot Camp program has been very successful; however, they must ensure that the program participants comply with all of the rules and guidelines that apply to any other Town program. He stated that it is the Recreation Commissioners' responsibility to protect the Town from any potential liability issues. Mr. Parker then opened the meeting to public comment.

Ms. Marzano introduced herself as the instructor for the Boot Camp program and stated that she had suggested the class to Ms. Quinn several years ago and that she was grateful to Ms. Quinn for the opportunity to create the program. She stated; however, that she feels some animosity has built up around the program and she hoped to clear the air through an open dialogue.

Several of the Boot Camp participants contributed to the discussions and spoke very highly about the program. They stated that their objective is to have a safe, well-lighted, consistent area to work out in. It was noted that they have been told that they cannot work out on the High School or Elementary School property this winter. It was also noted that they have been given the old Middle School as a winter location for their program; however, the lights in the parking lot are not working and there is also a lot of tree debris there from the October snowstorm.

There was a general discussion about cancellation of scheduled time in the schools' gyms and Mr. Parker advised the group that the Recreation Commission does not have any control over the scheduling of the gyms. He stated that the Commissioners are specifically concerned with the participants working out in trafficked areas such as the roads and school parking lots due to safety issues.

Several suggestions were made as possible solutions, including fixing the parking lot lights at the old Middle School, possible use of the Senior Center, and forming a sub-committee to develop a set of guidelines for the Boot Camp program to operate within. The Commissioners agreed to follow-up on each of those suggestions and Ms. Deming requested the Boot Camp participants document how the program operates and include a list of space and equipment needs. The Commissioners agreed to a goal of formulating a plan for the Boot Camp program by next spring.

The Boot Camp participants thanked the Commissioners and departed the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

In response to a request for volunteers, Ms. Deming and Ms. Roberts agreed to serve on the Boot Camp sub-committee with Mr. Parker. Ms. Quinn stated she would follow-up on repairs to the parking lot lights at the old Middle School and the availability of the Senior Center for the Boot Camp program.

B. Regional Recreation Directors' Meetings

Ms. Quinn reported that she has been attending regional Recreation Directors' meetings. She advised that the, through regionalization, the Directors' share ideas, instructors, supplies, and equipment.

C. 2012 Meeting Schedule

The Commissioners agreed to continue to meet at 7:00 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the River House for 2012.

D. Beaver Damage

Ms. Quinn reported that beavers have dammed up an area of the little pond at the Town Beach causing the walkways to flood. She advised that the Land Use Administrator has recommended a solution which he will implement at the beginning of December.

Mr. Parker stated that the December meeting agenda should include the Election of Officers.

The Commissioners discussed the December meeting date and agreed to re-schedule the meeting to December 12th at the Elementary School.

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 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon R. Wheeler
Recording Secretary