

RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
March 21, 2013

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

Mr. Parkus called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 17, 2013 meeting were reviewed. Mr. Gowac noted a correction to Agenda item #1 under Old Business (Heritage Park).

MR. SMITH MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 17, 2013 MEETING AS CORRECTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MS. DEMING AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Gowac reported \$78,754.00 of the Recreation Commission's budget had been expended leaving a balance of \$33,737.00. He further reported that \$9,975.00 of the Capital Improvements budget line had been expended leaving a balance of \$4,025.00 and that no expenses had been incurred against the Nicols Field budget line, leaving a balance of \$2,900.00

MR. GRILLO MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE TREASURER'S REPORT AS PRESENTED. MR. PARKUS SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Committee Reports

1. Music on the River – Ms. Deming reported that contracts have been signed with six bands and that the first event would be held on July 6th. Ms. Quinn advised that a volunteer will help with marketing and the flier for the events.
2. Budget - Ms. Quinn reported that the issues with the Music on the River budget line had been resolved and that the Finance Director has now created a separate account for the event.

Mr. Parker reported that he and Ms. Quinn had met with the Selectmen and the Board of Finance concerning the Recreation Commission's 2013-2014 budget. He advised that they didn't have many questions and supported increasing the Recreation Director's hours to 40 hours per week. Ms. Quinn stated that funding for a part-time secretary had been removed from the Rec Commission's budget but she believes it is still included in the Town's overall budget. She explained that the reason for putting the funding for the secretary in the Town's budget was because it is a union position and the First Selectmen must negotiate with the union about the position. She was optimistic that the Rec Commission will still be provided with a part-time secretary.

Director's Report

Ms. Quinn reported on the following:

- The First Selectmen requested a sign be installed at Nicols Field and Ms. Quinn circulated several drawings for the Commissioners consideration. She stated that she plans to have a sign installed at both entrances to the park. Mr. Parkus suggested clearing out the brush between the entrances and installing

one larger sign between the entrances. He also suggested putting in a sidewalk in that area. The Commissioners supported Mr. Parkus suggestion.

- She will be attending a meeting to discuss a YMCA program at the Elementary School.
- There was an incident with the 5th/6th grade boys travel basketball team during a game they played with Preston. It was a very competitive and physical game which resulted in name-calling by some players and spectators. She noted that she thought part of the reason for the highly competitive nature of the game was because, in a previous game, some of the East Haddam players had refused to shake hands with the Preston players after the game.

Ms. Quinn stated that the Preston coach had come to her office later in the week and apologized for what took place. He suggested it might help to resolve some of the hard feelings by scheduling a scrimmage between the two teams without spectators. She agreed with the Preston coach but stated that the parents of the East Haddam players over-ruled her. Consequently, East Haddam will not play Preston again this season.

- There is a group of individuals that feel the Rec basketball program does not offer the players an opportunity to progress in the sport and they have expressed an interest in starting a basketball club. She attended a meeting with the group and responded to their concerns. She stated that she provided them with information about the Rec basketball program as well as the clinic planned for this summer. She advised that they seemed pleased with the details of the program and that several of the school coaches have expressed an interest in attending the pre-season practices.
- A meeting is scheduled for March 26th at the Elementary School for the basketball coaches to do a re-cap of how the season went, what went well with the program and what could be improved. She invited the Commissioners to attend the meeting.
- She is working on several ideas on how to attract more coaches for the basketball program.
- She informed the director of the Sprouts summer camp program that the Commissioners would no longer allow young children of staff to assist with camp programs.
- There may be an opportunity to coordinate the Rec soccer program with the Soccer Club program. She stated that the head of the Soccer Club extended an invitation to the Rec Commissioners to attend their meeting on April 4th to discuss the issue. Mr. Grillo volunteered to attend the meeting.
- A bicycle race is scheduled for May 5th and will start from the Town Beach.
- The Lions Club is organizing a triathlon on June 30th. The event will be held at the Town Beach and Ms. Quinn will make sure lifeguards are on-duty and the restrooms are open.
- She has contracted with Subway to provide optional lunches once a week to the summer campers. Mr. Grillo suggested she check with some of the East Haddam food businesses to see if they would like to do the same. Ms. Quinn agreed to check with the Town businesses.
- She is going to draft a fact sheet about the Rec programs and post it on the Town's website.

Old Business

Ms. Quinn stated that she has been in touch with the Town's insurance company concerning the outstanding law suit related to last year's summer camp program. She reported that there has been no response from the family's attorney regarding the insurance company's offer and that the family has until July 14th to make a claim or file suit.

New Business

Mr. Parker advised that the Superintendent of Schools had complained that participants in two of the Rec programs held in the elementary school gym had damaged the mats. After further investigation it was determined that the mats had been dirtied and could be cleaned. Since Ms. Quinn could not guarantee that the mats would not be dirtied again, she canceled one of the programs and relocated the other to the High School. Mr. Parker and Ms. Quinn met with the Superintendent and resolved the situation. Ms. Quinn stated that the Superintendent now has all of her contact info and will call her immediately if another such incident occurs.

Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Sharon R. Wheeler
Recording Secretary