

RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

April 18, 2013

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

Absent: C. Deming; M. Roberts

Also Present: S. Conroy; C. Miner; R. Parker; S. Wheeler

Mr. Parker called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 21, 2013 meeting were reviewed.

MR. PARKEUS MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 21, 2013 MEETING AS WRITTEN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. SMITH AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Guests and Audience

There were no guests in attendance at this point in the meeting but Mr. Parker advised that he expected Mr. Conroy may stop in to discuss the basketball program. He provided some background on Mr. Conroy's concerns.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Quinn provided an overview of the status of the Recreation Commission's budget.

Committee Reports

1. Music on the River – Ms. Quinn distributed the flier for the event. She noted that, this year, additional benefits will be offered to donors at the \$600 and \$1200 levels. She advised that businesses contributing \$600.00 or above will be offered the option to have coupons distributed at the events and that donors of \$1,200.00 or greater will have the option of displaying a banner at the events.

Director's Report

Ms. Quinn reported that she also participated in a number of meetings coordinated by the Superintendent to discuss initiating YMCA after-school programs at the Elementary School. She noted that the First Selectmen and Board of Education members have concerns about how the program could impact local daycare businesses. Ms. Quinn noted that Ms. McCabe recommended inviting the daycare owners to a meeting to discuss the proposed Y-program.

Guest and Audience

Mr. Parker recognized Mr. Conroy who introduced himself and thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to discuss the Rec Commission's basketball program. He advised that he has talked with Ms. Quinn about the program and he provided a list of his concerns. He noted that he has also talked with other parents who share his frustration and who also feel the existing program does not develop the players' skills and lacks competitiveness.

Mr. Parker addressed several of Mr. Conroy's concerns and noted that the Recreation Commission shares Mr. Conroy's interest in developing players' skill and to continuously improve the basketball program and he noted several steps that have recently been taken in that direction. He asked Mr. Conroy to clarify whether he wants to work with the Rec Commission or start-up a new basketball program. Mr. Conroy stated that he would prefer to work with the Rec Commission's program if the Commissioners were open to improvements.

Ms. Quinn provided an overview of the existing basketball program, some information on how it has evolved, and statistics from parents' responses to a survey they received about the program. Mr. Miner and Dick Parker also offered comments about the existing program.

Mr. Parker reiterated the Commissioners' willingness to work with parents to improve the basketball program and it was agreed that Mr. Parker, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Michalski would set-up a separate meeting with Mr. Conroy and others to discuss next steps.

Old Business

- Budget – This item was discussed earlier in the meeting and is reported on in the above minutes.
- Basketball – This item was discussed earlier in the meeting and is reported on in the above minutes.
- Gym – Ms. Quinn reported that she had participated in several meetings with the school Superintendent and others about the use of the school gyms and hiring a gym supervisor to oversee the use and maintenance of the gyms by groups that are not part of the Board of Education. She noted that she felt it was a good conversation.

Mr. Parkus noted that the brush in front of Nicols Field had been cleared and it looks very nice now.

New Business

- Email policy - Ms. Quinn advised that there has been at least one occurrence of a parent using the email addresses of participants in Rec Commission programs for communicating about non-Rec Commission business. She recommended a privacy policy about email addresses be included in the coach's handbook and requested the Commissioners provide her with samples of such statements if they have any.

At Mr. Parker's request, Ms. Quinn agreed to send him, Mr. Smith and Mr. Michalski an outline of the Rec Commission's basketball program prior to their meeting with Mr. Conroy.

Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Sharon R. Wheeler
Recording Secretary