Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes: January 12, 2022
7:00 PM
Video Conference-Meeting via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT: Thomas Boscarino, Cynthia Costanzo, Kevin Hayes, Shay Drake, Cheri Murphy, Tara Kozik and Sherry Kraus joined (7:24pm)

OTHERS PRESENT: Dustin Huguenin, Director of Recreation; Mary Bartley, Assistant Director of Recreation and Kevin Barrett, Recreation Coordinator.

I. CALL TO ORDER: Thomas Boscarino Vice-Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:11 PM.

II. CORRESPONDENCE: None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 9, 2021 special meeting
MOVED (DRAKE) SECONDED (KOZIK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 9, 2021 SPECIAL MEETING.

IV. PUBLIC FORUM: None

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Nothing to report

VI. RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT:
Dustin reported that we have started a new Adult Indoor Soccer program on Sundays beginning January 23rd. Adult Pickleball has returned on Tuesday evenings at CLS. The basketball program is running as smoothly as possible with the COVID issues currently happening.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:
A. Finance: Budget process has started with a new zero based budget format as requested by the new Finance Chairman M. Purcaro.
B. Maintenance: None
C. Operations: Sub Committee meeting will be adjourned to February 9th at 6pm.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS:
A. Disc Golf Proposal: Dustin Huguenin, Recreation Director, has a meeting with the Trails Committee members on Friday, January 14th to discuss the updates of the project. C. Costanzo asked Dustin if he thinks that the Trails Committee has another property in mind for the disc golf course? Dustin is unaware at this time what they are looking for.
B. Playground Proposal at Robert Tedford Memorial Park: still waiting to hear from the Town Attorney on the verbiage for the name of the project.
C. Winter Guidance for Youth Sports

Dustin asked Cheri Murphy to share with the P & R Commission members the current guidelines that the Ellington schools are currently using in regards to their procedure for contact tracing. C. Murphy replied that the schools are not administering any COVID at-home test kits to students at schools. They would provide the test kit to the parents, if they needed one. For the most part there would be a 5-day quarantine and if they have no symptoms on day 6 to return. A discussion was held about the current contact to contact tracing that the recreation staff is now trying to keep track of, current positive COVID cases within our youth basketball program. C. Murphy would like to go on record that she does not agree with the DPH’s current guidance for youth sports. The P & R Commission agreed that the recreation department would need additional staff and or funding to help provide the current staff with assistance on the contract tracing. The commission would like to push forward on helping with the situation and reach out to the local DPH and Town Administration on the outlook of what the current guidance is asking. Both C. Murphy, K. Hayes, T. Kozik and C. Costanzo are willing to write a letter to the DPH asking for answers and support of the current DPH guidelines. Vice Chairman Boscario would like to set up a special virtual meeting for Tuesday, January 18th to follow up on the discussion of winter guidance for youth sports and the comprehensive lighting project.

D. Comprehensive Field Lighting Project: Vice Chairman T. Boscario mentioned that he did see that this project has been approved in the JI and is going to a referendum in March 2022. D. Huguenin mentioned that some of the local youth sports programs have an interest in this project. The commission has the ability to influence a position on this project. Having this coupled with the Windermere School project may give this a good push to having this approved. C. Costanzo is on the fence about this project, and is waiting for a response to the commissions memo sent in December to the First Selectman’s Office expressing concerns and requests for more information. T. Boscario is going to inquire further regarding the information requested on the status of the field lighting proposal.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Ellington Lacrosse Association Update: The Lacrosse Association board has dissolved and the program will now be run primarily through the Ellington Recreation Department. Both former board members Melissa Nord and Donney Parker will remain, lending support to both the girls and boys lacrosse programs. Any funds that are left over from the Lacrosse Association will need to be spent down and or donations of the equipment can go to the Recreation Department.

X. ADJOURN

MOVED (COSTANZO) SECONDED (HAYES) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN AT 8:20 PM.

Submitted By:

Mary M. Bartley