

SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
December 14, 2022

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, December 14, 2022 in the conference room, Town Hall, 83 Mountain Rd., Suffield, CT. Zoom was also available for those who wished not to attend in person.

ATTENDANCE:Brian Casinghino, Chairman
.....Bill Boucher, Vice Chairman
.....Jay Bombard
.....Anthony Migliozi (Zoom)
.....David Rusnock

ABSENT:Stephanie Dolan
.....Andrew Joly
.....Sam Lombardo
.....Stephen Marchillo

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:Peter Leclerc, Director

Brian called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Brian asked Peter to read the agenda into the minutes:

- A. Call to Order
- B. Public Input
- C. Review of Minutes
- D. Correspondence
- E. Program Reports
- F. Old Business
 - a. Basketball Update
 - b. Bowling Buddies' Holiday Party
 - c. Suffield Alight!
 - d. Breakfast with Santa
 - e. Bridge Street Park
 - f. Other
- G. New Business
 - a. Subcommittees
 - b. Meeting Dates for 2023
 - c. Other

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

MINUTES: Bill asked that under Program Reports, the 1st sentence of the last paragraph be corrected to state: Dan and a few other town employees participated in the Octoberfest Fundraiser sponsored by Hill Top Farm. Bill made a motion to accept the minutes, as amended above. Dave seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

Peter thanked everyone for being flexible with having Dan come to meetings in his place.

PROGRAM REPORTS: Peter said we could spend a whole meeting on the programs that Donna conducts not only for the special needs group but for youth and adults to. He reviewed several of the programs that she provides. Peter said Donna puts her heart and soul into her programs.

Dan's report contains information on the CRPA Conference (Ct. Recreation and Parks Association) which was held in November. The conference was back to pre-Covid years and the entire department attended. This was the first time Pam has attended since there were administrative classes.

We opened up another pickleball day and it filled up in 2 days. Peter reviewed how the program is run and the days that it takes place.

OLD BUSINESS:

Basketball Update: We don't have the final numbers yet and we will take in players if there is room. We are 100% over in the boys 7/8 division. This is the 2nd year that we have allowed Travel Basketball players to register for our Parks & Rec basketball program. We would like to see this happen with the girls (5th thru 8th) so we could have separate teams instead of just one.

The program starts this weekend along with mini travel league (5th grade up). The numbers are good for 3rd and 4th, 1st and 2nd and kindergarten.

Bowling Buddies' Holiday Party: The party will be held at Spare Time Lanes, Windsor Locks, next Tuesday starting at 6 p.m. Just showing up for a little bit would be a big deal to them. Peter said the he will be there supporting the group.

Suffield Alight!: This event started out as a tree lighting but it has grown. We moved the event to a Friday for a few reasons. One of the reasons was to get the horse drawn wagon. We had food trucks along with other vendors, a DJ, Santa and Mrs. Claus and The Grinch. The response from the public was great. The event was a tremendous success. A thanks to DPW, highway department, First Selectman's office and also the businesses that decorated.

Breakfast with Santa was last Saturday at the Senior Center. It was a collaboration between Parks & Rec, Senior Center and Youth Services. We raised significant funds for the kitchen fund and Parks & Recreation. There were about 150 people. Peter thanked Bill for helping and Bill said the high school kids who came to help did a really good job.

Brian gave credit to Bill for the volunteer help he provides for our various events and for being a consistent volunteer.

Bridge Street Park: Brian said that Bill has scheduled a Long-Term Planning and Programs subcommittee meeting. Bill said the meeting will be held January 5 at 7:00 p.m. and the main top will be Bridge Street Park. Anyone that wishes to attend is welcome.

Brian said that a crucial component of this project will be fundraising and Peter has reached out to Beth Fanous, the attorney who did the Community Center 501c3 application. Beth is willing to help again. The 501c3 has been deactivated but can be reactivated. Beth has most of the original paperwork and we need to resubmit an application as we did in the past. Brian spoke with an IRS representative and they verified what Beth said.

Bill said that the subcommittee meeting will focus on Bridge Street Park fundraising to brainstorm some ideas since the town will be looking for private donations to help offset what the town will be spending.

Other: Peter was contacted again by the Lacrosse Club in regard to their previous request to be allowed to build a bounce wall at Sullivan Field. The location of the wall was discussed since there could be noise problems if put in the original location requested by the Lacrosse Club. Peter put an aerial photo of the location up on the screen and after discussion it was agreed that the wall could be put up against the far west area where the trees and underground pipeline are located. The Lacrosse Club will pay for and build the wall. Peter said that he will run this by the town attorney for approval.

They also asked to move all their spring lacrosse programs to Sullivan Field. Peter reviewed the fields and the different groups that use them. It's the in-season sport so Peter said he agreed.

Anthony made a motion in support of the Lacrosse Club's efforts to install a lacrosse backboard pending the least intrusive location to the neighboring houses. Bill seconded and the vote was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS:

Subcommittees: Brian reviewed the members on the 4 subcommittees we have.

Youth Sports: Jay (Chairman), Dave, Anthony and Stephanie
 Long Term Planning and Programs: Bill (Chairman), Jay, Anthony and Stephen
 Major Events: Sam (Chairman), Bill, Dave and Anthony
 Communications: Stephanie (Chairman), Sam, Stephen and Anthony

Bill said that Sam reached out to him in regard to the meeting date for the Long Term Planning and Programs subcommittee since Sam wanted to attend.

An item that Brian has been thinking about for Long Term Planning and Programs is pickleball. This sport is conducting leagues and competitions and we have talked about holding an event once the court renovations are complete. This could also come under the Major Events subcommittee.

Bill said that Suffield residents are going to Enfield and registering there for pickleball since we don't have enough indoor time available. Peter said that after March the schools will open up and we will have more access to gyms for pickleball programs. After April when the weather is better and courts are finished, we will have outdoor programs. Bill asked if there is going to be a grand reopening ceremony once the courts are completed. Peter said yes.

Meeting Dates for 2023: Brian reminded everyone that our meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. There is no meeting in July. Changing the date for the May and August meetings was discussed. The meetings for 2023 will be held as follows:

January 11, 2023	July – No Meeting
February 8, 2023	August 16, 2023(*)
March 8, 2023	September 13, 2023
April 12, 2023	October 11, 2023
May 17, 2023(*)	November 8, 2023
June 14, 2023	December 13, 2023

(*) Amended date.

Dave made a motion to accept the above dates for the meetings for 2023. Jay seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Other: Peter said that Dan (on his own) did evaluations for the 3rd and 4th grade basketball program and this should add more parity to the program. The evaluations with the older grade players have made the teams more even and that has been nice. Dan has been putting in the extra time.

Peter said he bought a portable score board for McAlister for our programs. It is an electronic scoreboard, 12” x 16”.

Brian thanked the commission members for another outstanding year and also Peter and his staff. Bill said that he has heard good comments from residents about the staff.

ADJOURNMENT: Dave made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bill seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Scheitlin, recording secretary for
Sam Lombardo, Clerk

These minutes are not official until accepted at subsequent meeting