

**SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
MONTHLY MEETING  
February 8, 2023**

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, February 8, 2023 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  
.....Andrew Joly (Zoom)  
.....Stephen Marchillo (Zoom)  
.....David Rusnock

ABSENT: .....Sam Lombardo  
.....Jay Bombard  
.....Stephanie Dolan  
.....Anthony Migliozi

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: .....Peter Leclerc, Director

Brian called the meeting to order at 7:05 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. Middle School Court Striping & Suffield Summer Fair
  - b. Bridge Street Park
  - c. Other
- G. New Business
  - a. House Bill 6574
  - b. 2023 Suffield Night at the Yard Goats
  - c. 2023 Award Recipients
  - d. Other
- H. Adjournment

**PUBLIC INPUT:** None.

**MINUTES:** Andy said he would like to see wording removed from the Program Reports, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, 5<sup>th</sup> sentence for clarification of meaning. Andy made a motion to

remove the following line from the Program Reports, “.... *the players who are also on Travel know that this is rec basketball*”. Stephen seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Peter reviewed a letter from Pamela Baldini who is a participant in one of our walking programs. Dan went with Donna to one of the programs and met with Pamela. Her late husband was a member of the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials and she has referee equipment she wished to donate but understood that in the post pandemic world that isn't possible. Pamela generously gave us a check for \$100. This will be used to purchase whistles and other officiating equipment for our referees. Pamela requested that the donation be publicly recognized as presented in memory of Alfred Baldini, Jr.

Peter will be sending a thank you letter and Bill suggested that it would be nice to send it on behalf of the commission also.

**PROGRAM REPORTS:** Basketball has been going well and Tee-Ball (spring program) registration has started and Flag Football will start this month.

Peter reviewed Dan's Family Night program, the first one being held in January. The next one will be held this month. The program was very successful and this program is a collaboration between Youth Services, Senior Center and our department.

Pickleball is a very hot program. As soon as a new slot is opened up, we have 6 or 8 people signing up. They are excited about the outdoor courts. Tournaments were discussed and the popularity of the program.

Summer hiring for returning employees is done and we are interviewing new people.

Donna's programs are going well and we have a new program for the Bowling Buddies. It is an art project program.

Stephen said that he would like a calendar listing when registration will start for our various programs. Even if the calendar is vague, it would be helpful for parents who have various programs they plan on signing their children up for. He also felt it would be helpful to have the dates for the summer camps since many people have overlapping programs they want to sign up for. Knowing if the dates are competing would help. The commission discussed the various scenarios that parents face and what might be helpful. Peter explained why he can't always have the dates since we use the schools' facilities for many of the programs/camps and we have to wait for them to let us know if space is available.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Middle School Court Striping & Suffield Summer Fair:** Peter said that the lines will be painted on the courts once the temperatures reach 50 degrees. The fencing is up and it will not come back down.

We are considering a pickleball tournament at the Summer Fair. Peter said that we can start it at 10 a.m., fair starts at noon, to help with parking. The commission discussed what day to hold the tournament and Saturday was determined the best day with a rain date of Sunday. The parking lot will be used for rides, not parking and the courts will not be used for vendors as we did last year. Parking will be an issue and we will have to find other areas to park. Brian said he is worried about the courts being damaged if skateboarders/bikers use it. The commission discussed how to keep the courts from being damaged.

**Bridge Street Park:** Bill, Brian and Peter met virtually with Atty. Beth Fanous, about reactivating the 501c3. It is a daunting task but it looks promising.

Once we get some additional information from the consulting architect firm, we can relay it to the 1<sup>st</sup> selectman so he can present the phased in project to the board of selectmen.

Brian said he has contacted the 501c3 Directors to see if they want to continue. One person has declined. We presently have 7 but can have up to 11. Brian felt we should have more rather than less and the commission agreed.

**Other:** None.

Andrew left the meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**House Bill 6574:** Peter described House Bill 6574 which proposes that youth camps conducted by municipalities have state oversights and accountability. The municipal camps do have oversight and the additional requirements of the bill would make it hard to impossible for municipalities to hold camps. Private camps do not have the oversight that a town camp has. Peter reviewed the various requirements that the bill would enforce and the costs. He also reviewed the various oversights and accountability that we have for our camps.

The commission discussed the bill and how it would affect town camps and the costs it would incur which would then increase costs to families. Peter included the letter that he sent to our state representative and senator. The letter explains how the bill would cause a severe burden and the fact that we do have oversights and accountability for our programs.

Bill suggested that commission members contact their legislative representatives and express their concern for the harm this bill would cause.

Dave made a motion to support Peter’s letter opposing House Bill 6574 and that we authorize Brian, as chair of our commission, to contact our state legislators to give an official commission statement of our opinion on the bill. Stephen seconded. All voted yes.

The commission discussed the ramifications if the bill passed, the hardship it would cause for towns and the increase in costs. They also discussed the hardships this would cause for families.

**2023 Suffield Night at the Yard Goats:** The event will be held Friday, July 7. Peter would have preferred the event be held in June but that was not possible. A block of seats has been reserved and this year, in addition, we have the possibility of reserving a box. This is a unique experience, 24 people max., your own bathroom, food, etc. Peter said that he is waiting on a potential sponsor to cover ½ the cost of the box.

**2023 Award Recipients:** The recipients are given their awards before the game begins. The recipients have been notified but we have not done a press release as yet. The recipients have all said that they do the work because they want to and not for acknowledgement.

Peter reviewed the awards and what they involved. He then reviewed the recipients and why they were chosen.

Lou Casinghino Service Award: Brian Casinghino  
Public Service Award: The Bombard Family  
Youth Leadership Award: Brynna Tinnirella  
Youth Sports Impact Award: Erika Pafford  
Military Family Service Award: George Fields

Once the intern starts, they will take charge of the event and handle all the items related to it.

**Other:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Bill made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dave seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Scheitlin, recording secretary for  
Sam Lombardo, Clerk

These minutes are not official until accepted at subsequent meeting