

SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
September 13, 2023

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, September 13, 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
.....Stephen Marchillo
.....David Rusnock

ABSENT:Sam Lombardo
.....Andrew Joly
.....Anthony Migliozi

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:Dan Leonard, Parks & Recreation Sports Programmer, representing Peter Leclerc, Director of Community Services
.....Jim Irwin, resident
.....Susan Irwin, resident

Brian called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Brian asked Dan 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. Road Race Recap
 - b. Senior Center Flooring Bid
 - c. Other
- G. New Business
 - a. Fall Sports
 - b. Bowling Buddies Start up
 - c. 5k Run to Remember
 - a. Partnering with Dave Camera
 - b. November 18th
 - d. Basketball
 - a. Clinics
 - b. Regular league sign up date
 - c. Certified Referees for grades 3/4 & up
 - e. Other
- H. Adjournment

PUBLIC INPUT: Brian asked Jim and Susan if they would like to make any comments. Susan said she goes to the Senior Center for exercise classes and saw on our agenda that we would be discussing the flooring. She checked the website to read the previous minutes and they were not posted. She was concerned that they were not posted within the timeframe they should be. Brian gave Susan a copy of the minutes. Susan said her

concern is that the minutes were not posted and she had gone back to previous meetings and found that several minutes were not posted in a timely manner. She checked with the town clerk on when those minutes were received and has concerns because she likes to have things transparent. She reviewed the minutes and dates. Bill asked her about her concerns about the flooring and she explained that if she had access to the minutes she probably would not have attended tonight. Bill said that the commission will look into the timely posting of the minutes. She also asked about subcommittee meetings and said they should be posted. Susan said at a regular meeting the agenda can be amended but at special meetings the agenda cannot be amended so it is important to name the meeting correctly. The agenda listed this meeting as a special meeting and it is a regular meeting. Brian clarified that it is a regular meeting.

MINUTES: Stephen made a motion to accept the August 30, 2023 minutes. Dave seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE: Dan said that a very nice thank you note was sent to Peter from Brynna Tinnirella to express her thanks for the youth leadership award she received at the Yard Goats game in July. She is an outstanding athlete and leadership person at the high school.

PROGRAM REPORTS: Dan hi-lighted Donna's programs.

The Kids Korner Camp was very successful with a lot of themes, water day and police and fire department coming out for a day.

Summer Game Night and Celebration which was a joint program between Donna and Dan was very successful. The adults get to act like the kids and participate in the children's games. Unfortunately, it rained and could not be held at Sunrise Park but had to move to the gym. It was enjoyed by all.

The Sunrise Camp and Adventure Camp had a great staff and Dan said that he is looking forward to next year. The summer sports camps and the theater camp were also very successful. A great summer. Brian asked about field hockey camp and Dan said it was in July and is a full day camp. It is a high-level camp and was well received by the participants.

Stephen asked what grades the lacrosse camp is for. Dan said it is grades 3 to 9. Stephen would like to see a camp for younger kids since it is becoming so popular.

Bill asked about the soccer program. Dan said we are doing well with about 260 signed up which is where we usually are. Around 3rd grade they start to go to travel soccer. Dan said he was able to recruit enough coaches.

Brian asked about Donna's Special Needs Bowling Program. Dan said it started last night and along with the bowling she also does other programs: once a month birthday night, trips, competing at tournaments and 2 banquets. She does an amazing job with this group and has been doing it for many years.

OLD BUSINESS:

Road Race recap: The race was last Saturday and it was a great turnout. There were 59 runners for the 10K race, 90 runners for the 5K, 11 for the walk and 32 for the kid's fun run: 192 people participated with good weather. The award winners received their prizes at the end of run. It was a successful day.

Senior Center Flooring Bid: The department of public works will be sending out the bid form within the next few days. Once the bids come back, they will be reviewed and a contractor chosen. We are hoping that the project will start around Thanksgiving and it should only take 2 or 3 days to install the floor. Right now, the

floor is tile which concerns us safety-wise. The new floor will also allow us to have more programming in that area.

Brian asked Jim if he had any questions and Jim said he just wanted to make sure that there was progress being made with this project and it had not fallen off the radar.

The commission discussed the flooring and the athletic programs held there and how hard and slippery the floor is.

Other: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Fall Sports: The fall sports have begun. The 2 main ones are soccer and flag football.

The soccer coaches meeting was held August 30. Any questions were answered and equipment and roosters were given to the coaches. Practices have started and games start this coming Saturday. James Barrett, our head referee who has been with us for 21 years, is holding the referee meeting tonight. He will review rules and hand out equipment.

The games are held at Bruce Park and Sullivan field

The second main sport is Flag Football and Stephen is one of our coaches and helps with the program. We have 2 age groups with 6 teams for the younger kids and 4 teams for the older kids. Games will start next Friday and this is our 4th season. The program has grown and we play in conjunction with East Granby. The numbers are lower in the fall due to kids playing other sports.

Stephen reviewed how the sport is growing. Stephen would like to see if we can get an adult program.

Stephen said that the games are played on Friday so they do not interfere with Soccer practices.

The commission discussed flag and tackle football programs and how they compare contact wise, how they are competing with the fall sports programs and how the spring program has more participants.

Bowling Buddies Start-up: The program started last night and runs through May on Tuesday nights at Spare Time in Windsor Locks. They also participate in tournaments and Donna holds a holiday party in December and a lu'au at the end of the season with awards given out. The commission discussed the phenomenal job Donna does with this group.

5K Run to Remember: This run is held in remembrance of Dave Camera's friend that passed away.

Partnering with Dave Camera: If anyone is interested in helping, it is a good cause. We provide equipment, setup, closeup and volunteers.

November 18: The race will be held November 18th. In the past it was held on Thanksgiving but was changed to the 18th since many people want to spend Thanksgiving with their families.

Basketball:

Regular league sign-up: The regular season registration opens in mid-October. We will send out notices on when registration will start. Evaluations will be in November and teams will be put together. The coaches meeting will be held and the program starts the 1st week of December.

Clinics: We are partnering with Lou Roe, former NBA professional basketball player. We have a one-off next Tuesday and then a 10-session program starting September 28th. We are marketing this as a program to help get you ready for the season and learn from a former NBA player. Dan said this is a great addition to the program.

Certified Referees for grades 3 and 4 and up: This year we will improve the refereeing by having certified adult referees for grades 3 and up. We always use adult referees for 5th grade and up. The youth referees do a great job but some of the younger referees are hesitant to blow the whistle. Dan is thinking of pairing the youth referees with adult referees.

The next improvement is to try and mix in some games for 1st and 2nd grade players. We have been doing just clinics in the past. This will give them a feel for the game.

The commission discussed the refereeing and the change in the start of the season. In the past it started in January and now it starts in December. Dan said he has heard that it is cool again to play Park & Rec basketball.

Dan said that we partner with East Granby, Granby, the Farmington Valley YMCA and sometimes Hartland for grades 5 to 8. This allows us to have teams and games.

Other: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Stephen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dave seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Scheitlin, recording secretary for
Sam Lombardo, Clerk

These minutes are not official until accepted at subsequent meeting