

**SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
October 11, 2023**

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, October 11, 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)
.....David Rusnock

ABSENT:Sam Lombardo, Clerk
.....Stephen Marchillo
.....Anthony Migliozi

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:Peter Leclerc, Director

Brian called the meeting to order at 7:12 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. Fall Sports Update
 - b. Road Race Recap
 - c. Other
- G. New Business
 - a. Basketball Sign Ups
 - b. Suffield Alight & Tree Lighting- December 1st
 - c. Other

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

MINUTES: Dave made a motion to accept the minutes. Bill seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PROGRAM REPORTS: Peter reviewed Dan’s report. We are in full swing with soccer and even with all the rain we have had we have been able to hold games. The rain

has either held off or it has been only a drizzle. We are almost at 300 children signed up. Andy said the program is going well and he is loving it. Last Friday, October 6, we did a Park & Rec Soccer Night at the high school boys varsity soccer game. We also did this at a field hockey game. There is a high five tunnel and recognition at the sideline

Basketball registration is ongoing and we are on pace with last year.

Flag Football has had some hiccups but we are working through them. There was some concern since this is a full league and we have soccer, field hockey, road race and all the other programs on going at the same time. For the spring we will enlist more help than just the staff to conduct the program.

Pickleball is going strong both indoors and out. Volleyball has started, this is a traditional program.

Bowling Buddies has started up and they are getting ready for the Special Olympics. Donna took the group on a trip to the Big E and they had a great time.

There is information on her exercise programs and afterschool programs in her report.

Brian complimented Donna on her hard work and energy.

OLD BUSINESS:

Fall Sports Update: Most of the fall sports were reviewed in Program Reports. We also have tennis lessons, cheerleading, and field hockey.

The commission discussed the middle school tennis/basketball courts and that pickleball seems to be played more than tennis. Bill said the basketball courts are being used too. Paddleboard, which we do not have here, is another sport that seems to be very popular.

Road Race Recap: A big thank you to those who helped at the road race. The event was very successful – weather was good and the turnout was good. Our numbers were up by 4 from last year.

The 5K route had a hiccup and Bill is going to map out a new route for next year. The commission discussed the 5k route, the problems with the present route and possible new routes for next year.

Brian talked about the award that was given out at the Falmouth, MA road race that he and his family participated in. They ran in the team relay marathon.

Other: Brian brought up the new floor for the Senior Center. There is a display at the Senior Center (of a floor like the one we will have put in) that shows the 12 steps of the process. The bids were sent out and came in within the budget. The contractor chosen is Mercer Carpet and Flooring, West Springfield, MA. We are hoping to start the

installation Thanksgiving week. It will take 3 days to install. After installation a third party will come in and paint the pickleball lines.

NEW BUSINESS:

Basketball Sign Ups: Some of basketball was covered in Program Reports. The signups are going well and we started early to give parents the opportunity to decide if they wanted to sign-up or choose another program. We will close either the end of month or early next month. Brian asked about when tryouts start for travel basketball. Andy said it is next week. Brian wanted to be sure that any youth that did not get into travel had an opportunity to sign up with us. Peter said that kids are allowed to play in both. Andy said that the travel coaches are encouraging their players to sign up with us to get more playing time. Peter said that he is happy to have the crossover of players. The commission discussed why kids want to play in both programs and Andy said he would like to see how many travel kids sign up with us.

Zoom closed out the session. Peter opened a new Zoom session and the meeting continued.

Suffield Alight & Tree Lighting – December 1st: The program will be held on Friday, December 1st on the town green. We will have a horse drawn carriage ride, food trucks, boy's scouts kettle korn, Santa and Mrs. Claus, petting zoo, ice craver, etc. We are doing something different with the lighting and Peter will be meeting with someone to see what we can do. We are looking for volunteers for Friday afternoon and evening. People to help with breakdown would really be appreciated.

We are working on a new venue for the Bowling Buddies Holiday Party. We held it at the bowling alley last year – which was successful – but they are under new ownership and the fees have increased.

Peter said that he may not be available for next month's meeting.

Other: Brian felt it is important for commission members to volunteer for our various events and asked Peter if he could send out an invite for these events. He said that he would. Brian said we discuss at meetings but people are busy and don't always remember.

Brian asked that it be noted that Zoom closed out our first session and Peter reopened another Zoom session. Both will be posted.

ADJOURNMENT: Bill made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dave seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Scheitlin, recording secretary for
Sam Lombardo, Clerk

These minutes are not official until accepted at subsequent meeting