

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

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, November 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  
.....Sam Lombardo  
.....Stephen Marchillo (Zoom)  
.....David Rusnock

ABSENT: .....Andrew Joly  
.....Anthony Migliozi

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: .....Dan Leonard, Parks & Recreation Sports Programmer, representing Peter Leclerc, Director of Community Service

Brian called the meeting to order at 7:02 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. Fall Sports Update
  - b. Flag Football Recap
  - c. Basketball Sign Ups
  - d. Other
- G. New Business
  - a. Suffield Alight & Tree Lighting- December 1st
  - b. Bowling Buddies Holiday Party- December 19th at 5pm
  - c. Other, 2023

**PUBLIC INPUT:** None.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**PROGRAM REPORTS:** Dan reviewed Donna's report. She is working with the Special Needs Bowling Buddies program which is ongoing. She also did a Halloween party and crafts program with this group and with children at Spaulding, McAlister and the Middle school.

Halloween Night, which was put on by Dan and Donna, was held at the Senior Center. There was pizza, a presenter who talked about the scary animals in the area and a full moon hike at Stoney Brook.

The basketball clinics held by Lou Roe, who was a professional basketball player, have been very successful. The program was held Tuesday and Thursday nights and Dan has been hearing great feedback on the clinics.

Bill asked if there would be any additional sessions of pickleball at the senior center. Bill said he was asked by a resident if this could happen since the present one is full. Dan said that he would check on availability and if he can he will schedule more sessions.

The commission discussed the popularity of pickleball, how fast it is growing, how it is played and that all ages can play.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Fall Sports Update:** Soccer will finish this Saturday, November 11, since last week was rained out. The weather has been difficult this year with the rain. It was still a great season and most games were played even with the damp weather. Since the time change will make it too dark to practice, Mr. Zak at the high school, has allowed us to practice tomorrow on the lighted field. It was a successful season with good comments and feedback.

James Barrett, head soccer referee, has been with us since 2004 and does a great job. He trains our referees, schedules and is there for all the games. He does an incredible job and it is an absolute pleasure working with him.

**Flag Football Recap:** The season concluded on Saturday. During one of the games a parent helper displayed poor sportsmanship and our department took the proper steps to rectify the situation. Overall, it was a great season with over 45 games held over all the age groups and teams. The end of the season tournament was held Friday and Saturday for our 2 different age groups. There were trophies and metals and the sportsmanship was great.

Brian discussed the incident that happened and that the individual responded appropriately after intervention.

Brian asked Stephen how the program compared to last year. Stephen said the registration was down a little but he thought if we open it earlier that we will get more

players. Dan said that a lot of kids play tackle but if we open earlier, we should get more. Getting coaches is also a problem as it is in all or sports.

Stephen said that Cervione Field is the best field for flag football, it drains well and the highway department does a great job mowing and lining the field.

**Basketball Sign Ups:** Dan said the numbers on his report have changed since he wrote it last week.

Kindergarten: 2 of the 3 sessions are full and held at the senior center. Grades 1 to 2: 3 of the 4 session are full. There will be about 27 kids each session.

Boys grade 3 and 4 we have 68. Girls grade 3 and 4 we have 36. Girls 5 to 8 we have 15. Boys grade 5 and 6 we have 41. Boys grade 7 to 8 we have 24.

The numbers are pretty consistent with last year.

It's great to see that we have more registrations in the older grades. Dan has heard that it's cool to play Parks & Rec basketball. We do play other towns so there is some travel but they get to play a lot of different teams.

The commission discussed the numbers and how good it is to see the older kids playing.

Sam asked if there will be evaluations this year for grades 3 and 4 and volunteered to help. Dan said yes to evaluations and thanked Sam for his help. Sam knows the kids and this gives him a better insight on their ability. The evaluation process helps to keep the teams even. The evaluations are next Wednesday and Thursday.

Sam said he wanted to comment on basketball in regard to the growth between travel basketball and Parks & Rec. The travel coaches encourage kids who do not make a travel team to sign up with us and they also tell their players to sign up for our program for more court time. The main thing is that the kids can play the game. Sam thanked the department for their efforts to improve the program and work with travel. Dan said that he has a very good relationship with the president of travel basketball. He is sharing court time and easy to work with.

The commission discussed our program and how it has grown along with the ongoing relationship with travel basketball.

**Other:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Suffield Alight & Tree Lighting – December 1:** The tree lighting will be held on the town green with Mr. and Mrs. Klaus, caroling, crafts and the grinch. Bill asked about

volunteers and Dan said we always need volunteers. He also said that if anyone knows of anyone needing volunteer hours, please let them know we can help.

Dave arrived.

Brian reviewed the volunteer hours that commission members can contribute and the importance of helping with town events. Brian asked for comments and suggestions on how to set up a system to remind members about volunteer opportunities and whether commissioners feel we need something like this. Sam asked about making a motion on this and Brian said we can talk about this more at the next meeting and decide if we want to or not.

**Bowling Buddies Holiday Party – December 19<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m.:** Donna is holding her annual holiday party on the 19<sup>th</sup>. This is a very big party and she spends a lot of time and effort on this and would appreciate it if you can make it. The location is still being worked on.

**Other:** Brian said that for years the chairman of the commission would invite the commission and department to his house for the December regular meeting and a get together after. Brian said he would like to host the December meeting at his residence.

Stephen asked about the new commissioners. Brian said that there are 2 new members who are alternates and Stephen and Sam have moved up to regular member. Stephen asked who the new members are. Brian said Jackie Guzie and Christopher Parker. He thinks Christopher is sworn in but not Jackie. Brian reviewed how easy the town clerk makes it to be sworn in.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Sam made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Stephen seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Scheitlin, recording secretary for  
Sam Lombardo, Clerk

These minutes are not official until accepted at subsequent meeting