

SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
March 13, 2024

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, March 13, 2024 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
.....Sam Lombardo
.....Jackie Guzie
.....Stephen Marchillo (Zoom)

ABSENT:Bill Boucher, Vice Chairman
.....Anthony Migliozzi
.....Andrew Joly
.....Christopher Parker
.....David Rusnock

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. Bridge Street Park
 - b. Dancing Stars of Suffield 4/24 Event Update
 - c. Budget Process Update d. School Usage Approvals
- G. New Business
 - a. 2024 Parks & Recreation Award Recipients
 - b. Summer Camp Registration
 - i. Opens March 18th @ 9:00 am
 - ii. Day camps, sports, and enrichment
 - c. New Officiating Curriculum
 - d. Other
- H. Adjourn

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

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

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PROGRAM REPORTS: Peter briefly reviewed the reports starting with Dan's. Last week Dan met with Granby, East Granby, and the YMCA to review the season. It was a successful season and the addition of certified referees was well received.

One of the special programs we do is the Full Moon Hike. We started this program about 3 years ago and it has been well received. We partner with the Sunrise Park Superintendent, Tom O'Brien. This year we did the hike at Stony Brook Park instead of Sunrise Park.

We held an E-sports tournament on the Wednesday of school break in February. The event was held at the Senior Center. There were some new people this year. It was a successful fun event and prizes were awarded.

The Bowling Buddies program is going strong and we have some new participants.

Being under one umbrella with the Senior Center, Youth Services, and ourselves we can do things collaboratively. We did a make your own pizza night that Donna and a group of Bowling Buddies participants attended. The program was open to all and there were some very creative pizzas. The Senior Center cook (Marylou Brewster) supervised and showed everyone how to make the pizzas.

Peter said that he is interviewing for a summer intern and we hope to have that finalized by the end of the month.

Interviewing for summer staff is still going on.

Dan suggested a bus trip to Tanglewood for the James Taylor concert this summer. The bus filled (with very little advertising) and since the response was so good we ordered a second bus.

Brian complimented Sam regarding his involvement with travel basketball and his team winning the league final. Sam said our program helps develop players for the travel program.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bridge Street Park: Brian and Peter met with Colin Moll (1st selectman) and Chris Childs (Board of Finance) last month on this project. Peter is still working on downsizing the project to reduce costs but to also keep it looking attractive since it is in the center of town. He is hoping to have a plan within the next few weeks that we can present to Colin. The cost of amenities, fencing, site work and landscaping was

discussed along with basics we would like to have in the park. Sam asked about putting items in yearly. Peter said that costs go up every year so an item that might cost \$50,000 this year will be \$60,000 next year.

Jackie asked about coupling with other organizations to help with costs. Peter said we must have a plan first. We also need to have more money invested in the project before we start asking others for help.

Jackie said she was not aware of what the project entailed so Brian reviewed the Bridge Street project and the reasons we are trying to accomplish it.

Sam suggested having a plan at the Summer Fair to see if we can get interest and commitment from townspeople.

Dancing Stars of Suffield 4/24 Event Update: The event will be held April 24. Peter said he sent out a request to commissioners for support – either to Dan or other participants. Donations can be made at www.suffieldrec.com. The donation period will end two days before the event. We are doing this so we can have a tally to present at the event. Donations will be taken if received after. The donations will go to help with the Bowling Buddies program.

Budge Process Update: Peter met with Colin and the Board of Finance and they had a lot of questions, especially about the new revenue generated position. We answered all questions and so far, it looks good. The new position is the one Dan presently has and Dan will move into the Recreation Supervisor position. The new person will focus on sports for all ages – leagues, camps, tournaments, etc.

School Usage Approvals: Peter reviewed the problem we sometimes have with our approved usage at the school being changed because of mix-ups in scheduling by the school. If the school has a program planned for the same date, they have priority. There is a lot to coordinate with scheduling time slots and Peter is trying to work with the school to try and get this improved. We had a program scheduled at the school and our slot was taken away. We were given a time slot 6 weeks later. We had hired someone to do the program and some of the participants could not attend on the new date – they were given refunds. Other situations that have occurred were discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

2024 Parks & Recreation Award Recipients: The award recipients have all been contacted except for one. The awards are as follows:

Louis Casinghino Service Award. This is given to someone who has provided selfless service for at least 10 years to the department. **James Barrett** has volunteered and worked for us for 20 years.

Public Service Award: This recognizes outstanding contributions by persons or groups to Suffield Parks and Rec. **Barbara Coffin** is a tremendous supporter of Parks & Rec, Senior Center, and other town groups.

Youth Leadership Award. This recognizes an outstanding teenager who shows outstanding leadership in Suffield Parks and Rec programs. **Rylie Baril** has helped with our programs and shows outstanding leadership. She has worked for us at camps and is an outstanding student.

Youth Sports Impact Award. This person exemplifies the value of youth sports and service to others. **Matt Andre** has helped with coaching for our soccer and basketball programs and is involved with other town sports.

Military Family Service Award. This recognizes a military family (active or inactive) who have served the country and community and contributed to Suffield Parks and Rec. **Angeline Driggers** has helped with coaching the field hockey program.

Jackie asked how the people are picked. Peter said we take notes throughout the year on people we think might fit the above criteria. We review and choose from this information.

Summer Camp Registration:

- i. Opens March 18th @ 9:00 a.m. This is for all summer camps. We will send out an e-mail blast. We start registration at 9:00 a.m. so that if anyone has questions, we can help
- ii. Day Camps, sports, and enrichment. Peter listed the programs/camps we will have this summer. There will be at least 1 or 2 camps going on each week and some weeks we will have more.

New Officiating Curriculum: Dan and Peter met with a company that offers online training for officiating. Peter said that many schools are putting this program into their curriculum – as an elective. This gives the student certification and they can officiate at upper levels.

We are working with them to develop a program that will suit us. It is a fee-based program but it is very in-depth. Once the person has passed the module they have access to it at any time. Dan and Peter will take the course to see if it will work for us. The program covers several different sports. Some of the videos are from a go-pro camera that actual officials wear when officiating.

If this works Peter is thinking about changing the referee pay tier based on the modules that the referee has taken and passed. This could be a great tool in improving our officiating.

Peter said it may be put together like the babysitting course we provide. The commission had many questions and Peter gave detailed answers.

Other: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Sam made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jackie seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Scheitlin, recording secretary for
Sam Lombardo, Clerk

These minutes are not official until accepted at subsequent meeting