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SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
December 11, 2024

REC'D BY:

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, December 11, 2024. The meeting location was changed from the Town Hall, 83 Mountain Rd., Suffield, CT first floor meeting room to the Senior Center. Zoom was also available for those who wished not to attend in person.

ATTENDANCE:Bill Boucher, Vice Chairman
.....Sam Lombardo (Zoom)
.....Jackie Guzie (Zoom)
.....Stephen Marchillo
.....David Rusnock

ABSENT:.....Brian Casinghino, Chairman
.....Andrew Joly
.....Christopher Parker

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:.....Peter Leclerc, Director
.....James Barrett, Soccer Referee Coordinator

Bill chaired the meeting in Brian’s absence.

Bill called the meeting to order at 7:05.

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

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

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

Dave made a motion to change the order of the agenda to move the item under New Business, Presentation of the “Louis Casinghino Service Award to James Barret,” before Program Reports. Stephen seconded and all voted yes.

Presentation of the “Louis Casinghino Service Award to James Barrett: Peter reviewed the award which was started a few years ago. It is usually given out at the Yard Goats game but sometimes this is not possible.

James has tirelessly contributed to the betterment of Suffield and the Parks and Rec Department. His involvement in various community events and initiatives has helped make Suffield the vibrant and thriving town it is today.

Peter asked James how long he has been volunteering for us. James said he has been involved with Parks and Rec for the past 18 years. Peter said not many people stick with things this long. James does a great job and he is very appreciated.

The commission talked with James about the award and what he has done.

PROGRAM REPORTS: It has been non-stop with programs.

The bowling buddies group jokingly peer pressured Peter into bowling. His first throw was a gutter ball and they loved that. The second throw was a strike, and Peter stopped. It was fun.

In November the whole department went to the CRPA (Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association) Conference. There were educational sessions, breakout sessions and vendors. It is good training.

We have registration numbers for basketball but they are changing since we take kids until the teams fill. The numbers for the various age groups were discussed.

The new Sunday soccer program for kids 3 and 4 years old and 5 and 6 year-olds has started with Matt Cummings. Peter reviewed how the program is set up.

Bill asked for a motion to accept the program reports as presented. Dave made the motion and Stephen seconded. All voted yes.

OLD BUSINESS:

Holiday Event Recap: There were 2 events in December. Slices with Santa was attended by over 100 people at the Senior Center. Last year it was spaghetti and next year it will be tacos. We had a special guest, Buddy the Elf in full costume. Bill said Santa did a great job talking to the kids. The next day Santa was at Suffield Alight.

Suffield Alight was a cold event but it was good. There was a trolley this year, food trucks, vendors, and boy scouts. The DJ was Chris Kellogg and he did a great job. The sound equipment was donated by Dave Camera from Shoreline Audio and Visual.

Bridge Street Park: There is no further movement on this item.

Bowling Buddies Holiday Party 12/17 @ 6:00 p.m.: Just a reminder that the event will be held at the Senior Center, Tuesday, December 17, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. It would be appreciated if commission members could stop by to show support. It means a lot to the participants.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dancers Recruitment for the “Dancing Stars of Suffield” fundraiser: This is a fundraiser where the dancers are paired with professionals and raise money. The event is a dinner with participants buying tickets. The dancers have private lessons with the professionals. We need 5 dancers this year and if you know of anyone that is interested let Peter know. This will be an annual event. The dancers are judged and one of our judges is a professional dancer who has won on the TV show Dancing with the Stars. The date was worked around the judge’s schedule. This year it will be Saturday, April 19.

Other: A vote on the meeting dates for 2025 needs to be taken. At the last meeting we talked about holding the meetings at the Senior Center but it works better to hold the meetings at the Town Hall. The Senior Center can be used as a backup location if the Town Hall is not available.

Stephen made a motion to accept the commission meeting dates as presented at last month’s meeting.

January 8, 2025	August 13
February 12	September 10
March 12	October 8
April 9	November 12
May 14	December 10
June 11	

The meetings will start at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Dave seconded the motion. All voted yes.

Peter asked that the commission members who are on Zoom to come by the office during the day to pick up some items.

ADJOURNMENT: Dave made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Stephen seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Scheitlin, recording secretary for
Sam Lombardo, Clerk

These minutes are not official until accepted at subsequent meeting

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