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**SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
February 12, 2025**

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 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 (Zoom)
.....Jackie Guzie
.....Andrew Joly (Zoom)
.....Stephen Marchillo (Zoom)
.....David Rusnock

ABSENT:.....Sam Lombardo
.....Christopher Parker

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:.....Peter Leclerc, Director

Brian called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Brian asked Peter to read the agenda into the minutes:

- A. Call to Order B
- B. Public Input
- Review of Minutes
- Correspondence
- E. Program Reports
- F. Old Business
 - a. Dancing Stars of Suffield event update
 - b. Budget Process
- G. New Business
 - a. Summer Event Dates
 - i. Camp Start Dates
 - ii. 2025 Suffield Night at the Yard Goats
 - 1. 2025 Award Nominations
 - iii. Suffield Summer Fair
 - iv. Concerts on the Green
 - v. Outdoor Movie Nights
 - b. Other

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

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

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PROGRAM REPORTS: The first report to review is Donna's. She held a Make Your Own Pizza and Karaoke Night at the Senior Center. This program was done with the collaboration of the Senior Center cooking staff utilizing the new double convention oven which has a capacity to cook 100 meals. The old oven was not sufficient for our needs. The kitchen staff helped the group make the pizzas. It was fun and a learning experience. Peter encouraged the commissioners to attend the next time we have this type of event.

The Winter Walkers Snowshoers program is on Tuesdays no matter what the weather is. It is held on school grounds so we have to coordinate with the school on this and we appreciate their help. It is a great socialization program and other programs have come out of this.

There are some new fitness programs and one of the instructors is a former commissioner, Stephan Dolan.

Summer registrations open on March 17. We could open earlier but we do not want to interfere with Spring programs. The save the date reminder is out and the digital brochure will go out a couple of weeks before registration opens with the camp information and other program information.

Dan's report has some of Matt's items in it. We have a new science program, Wonder Lab, which we will be putting together. We used to sub out this type of program to Mad Science (which was expensive) but we are now doing it inhouse. Dan has interviewed a few people with science backgrounds to do the programs. The program started 2 weeks ago and the instructor was great and the class was packed.

With Matt doing a lot of the programs it frees Dan up to do more enrichment programs. The art program was subbed out before but now we are doing it inhouse with Dan.

Basketball has been good with a few issues. Some within our control and some not.

An official did not show up for a game and that was the scheduler's error. It was for an inter-town game. A certified ref stayed for the 11 am game and then had to leave. Jamie Barrett stepped up and did the 12-noon game even though he is not a referee. He did a good job.

Practice had a few issues. We had to move 3 and 4th grade practice due to a gym conflict with the school. Unfortunately, some of the coaches were not notified or did not read the notice sent. The commission discussed getting information to the coaches/parents when this happens and the best way to get the information out.

Chris Parker said he would like to be more involved with junior officials and he is well qualified for that. The commission discussed officiating, how the kids responded to the program we offered and the importance of providing training for kids who will be our future officials. There was more discussion on officiating regarding how difficult it is and sometimes dangerous.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dancing Stars of Suffield event update: The fundraiser will be held on April 19 at the Fred Astire Dance Studio here in Suffield. We are looking for volunteers to help with the set-up. The dancers are Neil Altieri, Derek Donnelly, Stefano Salerno, and Ashley Finigan. We have a possible 5th dancer and Peter is waiting to hear from them.

Peter discussed last year's event and that it was a successful and exciting night. We hope this year is the same.

Dave asked about the ice-skating event. Peter said the ice was not safe for skating. The wind is affecting the freezing of the ice. If the ice becomes safe, we will hold the pop-up event.

Budget Process: Peter said he has another meeting with the 1st selectman coming up to review the budget. We have grown so much it is hard to forecast out. Peter explained that we can only spend what we have in the budget even if we bring in more money. The commission discussed how the money is spent for programs and that the money allocated in the budget has to be coming in to use it. Trying to forecast the future financial needs vs. income is difficult.

NEW BUSINESS:

Summer Event Dates: Camps starts June 23 and information about the camps and registration dates will be sent out by email, social media, and text messages.

2025 Suffield Night at the Yard Goats:

2025 Award Nominations: We are accepting nominals for the awards. Peter will email information about the categories. He reviewed the awards that are available: Long Term Service Award, Community Service Award, Youth Sports Award, Military Family Award and Youth Leadership Award.

If you know of someone who is deserving of an award please pass it along. We are working with the Yard Goats on the event. The event is scheduled for July 18.

Suffield Summer Fair: The Summer Fair will again be at the Middle School. It will be held on Father's Day weekend.

Concerts on the Green: The concerts will start July 9 and continue every Wednesday in July. It will be held on the Green 6 to 8 p.m. It is sponsored by PeoplesBank.

Outdoor Movie Nights: Stefano Salerno Realty and Caldwell Banker are the sponsors. They will start July 12 and then every Saturday through the first Saturday in August.

The movies have been licensed. One of the movies will be Wicked and we are planning some family events before the showing. Another movie will be the new Captain America movie. We are working on an obstacle course to go with this movie.

We will be utilizing the popcorn machine.

Dave asked if the movie Jaws will be shown again. Peter said no. The commission discussed some of the different movies shown in the past.

The movies will be advertised in the digital brochure that comes out in March.

Other: Peter asked Bill about the 555 Summer Series and if Dan or Matt could reach out to him regarding the program. Peter said that he did not need to be the head person but we would like to have someone who has been involved before. Bill said he would be available to work on this. The program was discussed, how to get the information on it and the work that needs to be put into it.

ADJOURNMENT: Dave 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