STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED

TOWN OF ELLINGTON
Parks and Recreation Commission

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

GORDON OLIVER
CHAIRMAN

THOMAS BOSCARINO
CYNTHIA COSTANZO
KEVIN HAYES
SHERRY KRAUS
SHAY DRAKE
CHRISTOPHER WEITZ
CHERI MURPHY
TARA KOZIK

Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes October 14, 2026
7:00PM, at 31 Arbor Way

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gordon Oliver, Thomas Boscarino, Sherry Kraus, Shay Drake, Cheri Murphy, and Tara Kozik

OTHERS PRESENT: Mary Bartley, Director of Recreation, Kevin Barrett, Assistant Director of Recreation, Robert Gorman, Program & Event Specialist, and Laurie Burstein, First Selectman.

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Commission Chairman Gordon Oliver called the meeting to order at 7:03PM.

II. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** September 15, 2026 Special Meeting
MOVED (KRAUS), SECONDED (DRAKE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2026 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES.

IV. **PUBLIC FORUM:** None

V. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** None

VI. **RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT:**
Mary Bartley updated the commission on how the fall seasons were going. Ms. Bartley also informed the commission of the upcoming Robert Tedford Memorial 5k and invited all those available to attend. The commission was updated on the status of travel basketball evaluations and the scheduled coaches' meeting. Mary Bartley also informed the commission that the role of Recreation Supervisor has been filled, with Joseph Zawisza accepting the position.

VII. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
A. FINANCE: None
B. MAINTENANCE: None
C. OPERATIONS: Mr. Boscarino stated that the operations committee would meet to update recreation department policies with the advisement of department heads. Mr. Boscarino also gave his thoughts on the possibility of parent groups advising for major sports. Mr. Boscarino suggested setting specific commission meetings to discuss each sport. Kevin Barrett provided the commission with a document outlining his initial thoughts on creating opportunities for residents' input. Cheri Murphy stated that this may help residents better understand the process and existing policies of the recreation department.

Tom Boscarino also expressed his belief that there is overlap between sports and policies should be consistent. Kevin Barrett spoke to his outlined document regarding these committees. Mr. Barrett also spoke about some of the differences between sports.

Laurie Burstein asked if Ellington Recreation identifies team reps, independent of the coach, to act as a liaison between the department and team. Mr. Boscarino informed her that is not in place in Ellington. Cheri Murphy also explained that Ellington is in the minority of organizations as a municipality running sports programs. Mary Bartley explained to the commission that Kevin Barrett's document on possible parent organizations was an extension of discussions at previous meetings, not a policy proposal. Tara Kozik asked for clarification on how

members of these committees will be selected and Mary Bartley suggested that they should be coaches rather than parents. Sherry Kraus suggested that setting goals for the year may help give the committees direction. Kevin Barrett explained that recreation department goals have historically been participation based. Shay Drake noted that commission members have different levels of availability to serve on these committees.

Mary Bartley asked the Operations Committee to review and update our current policies. Mr. Boscarino discussed the commission's previous experience writing and updating policies.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS: None

A. **NEW BUSINESS:** Approval of 2027 Commission Meeting Calendar
MOVED (BOSCARINO), SECONDED (KRAUS), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE 2027 COMMISSION MEETING CALENDAR.

X. ADJOURN:
MOVED (BOSCARINO), SECONDED (KRAUS), AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN AT 8:02PM.

Submitted by:

Robert Gorman