

**MINUTES**

**SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
MONTHLY MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2011**

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, September 14, 2011, at 230C Mountain Road, Conference Room.

ATTENDANCE: .....Lou Casinghino, Chairman  
.....Cindy Nicholson, Vice Chairman  
.....Leeayn Burke, Clerk  
.....Brian Casinghino  
.....Gerry Crane  
.....Michael Roccanti  
.....Kerri Milne

ABSENT: .....Bill Clark  
.....David Rusnock

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: .....Wendy J. LaMontagne, Director  
.....Marie Bourque, Administrative Secretary

Lou called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**PUBLIC INPUT:** none

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Wendy officially welcomed Marie Bourque as the new Administrative Secretary for the Parks and Recreation Department as of August 15, 2011. She also welcomed Marie to her first Commission Meeting. Wendy stated it is great to have a full team in Parks and Recreation again.

Wendy advised the Commission that the Fall Brochure is officially ready and has been posted online and on the Digital Backpack. Wendy left 695 brochures at Spaulding School and copies were left at McAlister and the Middle school for open house. Brochures were also left at various locations throughout the town. Wendy stated that there were a lot of new programs as well as the staples because they are very popular. There are fall trips scheduled as well. Wendy brought Marie around to various locations where the brochures are left and introduced her to the people she will be corresponding with.

**PROGRAM REPORTS:** No comments.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Summer Camp Overview:** There were 55 programs this summer with approximately 644 participants. The Lego camp was very popular, which was new this year. Wendy commented on the veteran staff and a job well done by everyone involved. Wendy said the feedback from the evaluation sheets contained a lot of positive accolades, and we will attempt to incorporate some of the suggestions into next year's programs.

A lot was done with special needs programs and working with the school with a good transition this year.

The tween camp had low numbers this year possibly due to the cost, economy and age of the participants. Wendy said we may cut the trips to reduce the cost of the programs and incorporate more on-site activities.

Lou said that he had three grandchildren in the camps this summer, one was in the tween camp, and he heard nothing but great things about all the camps. His grandchildren all had a great time and they enjoyed the swimming lessons etc.

Kerri stopped by tennis camp one day and said it was great. She liked the fact that the kids were really moving. Lou said his son thought the program was great too.

**Road Race:** Wendy thanked the volunteer's that participated in the event. There were 97 registered in the 5K and 66 registered in the 10K. The staff, volunteers and The First National Bank helped make the day a great success, with a lot of working going on behind the scenes with pre-registration and the timing company. Wendy said she heard a lot of accolades with the theme being that it was a well organized race and there were awesome raffle prizes. Wendy commented on the great job by the Police Explorers and Officer Terry Antrum.

Kerri said it was a really fun race and it was run in an extremely efficient manner. One big difference for her was that there was no traffic on Hill Street and it made it more comfortable with no worries.

Wendy said Mike's idea of a discount if running both races was worked in this year.

**Fall Soccer:** Practices began the last Saturday in August. September 17<sup>th</sup> is the on field Coaches Clinic with Youth Elite Soccer Company. Wendy said there have been a lot of late sign-ups this year especially in the younger grades. Kindergarten 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grades have two or three coaches, with a good supervision level and children were added. There has been some concern from the coaches regarding the children not having enough play time with so many children now on a team. There are not enough coaches for the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade children to add on.

The subject of a deadline was discussed with Lou saying that there has been bad publicity in the past when the kids don't get to play. There was also discussion about bringing

back the late fee of \$20.00 rather than the \$10.00 charged this year. Leeayn suggested getting rid of the T-shirts and replacing them with pinnies to help extend the registration process. There was also discussion of the role of Public Works timeline for preparing the fields in regards to the deadline issue. Cindy suggested that Wendy review the process and make a recommendation on how to resolve the issue.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Tennis Court Project:** Lou presented pictures of the condition of the tennis courts. Lou said that there are many new cracks that are getting larger, the courts are not only used for tennis by the public but also by the schools. We have been approved by the Finance Board to get the project done. There was discussion about a suggestion by a resident to just make patch repairs to the courts and not the full reconstruction at this time.

Gerry made a motion to reaffirm the vote on the repair of the tennis courts. Leeayn seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Wendy will draft a letter from Lou to Tom Frenaye & Craig Horrigan regarding the tennis court improvement project.

**Beach Volleyball:** Cindy had the idea to hold a beach volleyball tournament at Babb's Beach. Her son was involved in a tournament at Jones Beach in Long Island with large numbers turning out for the event. This may be a great event.

**Babbs Beach:** Gerry commented that he got an inquiry regarding development and improvements to Babb's Beach and the banquet hall.

Gerry made a motion to adjourn and Kerri seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leeayn Burke, Clerk