

**SUFFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
NOVEMBER 13, 2013**

The Suffield Parks & Recreation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, November 13, 2013 at the Town Hall, 83 Mountain Road, Suffield, CT., Lower Level Conference Room.

ATTENDANCE:Lou Casinghino
.....Cindy Nicholson, Vice Chairman
.....Kerri Milne
.....Leeayn Burke
.....Mike Roccanti

ABSENTBrian Casinghino
.....Gerry Crane
.....David Rusnock
.....Bill Clark

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:Wendy J. LaMontagne, Director

Lou called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

MINUTES: Cindy made a motion to accept the minutes. Kerri seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Parks and Recreation Department received a donation from Carole Bombard in memory of Steven Bombard. Wendy met with Carole to discuss combining this donation with previous donations. Wendy also requested assistance from Carole and her family to see what they could come up with as a semi-permanent or permanent item in memory of Steven Bombard. The item would be placed at the Family Recreation Complex.

PROGRAM REPORTS: Wendy updated the commission on Dan Bennett's Eagle Scout Project. Dan completed the installation the welcome sign at Bruce Park over the weekend. Wendy said the sign looks awesome and she encouraged the commissioners to take a ride out to Bruce Park to see it. Dan did the edging around the base of the sign since it is late in the season for planting, he will return in the spring to complete the project. Lou inquired if Dan put any brick around the sign. Wendy informed him that Dan put landscape edging around the sign but otherwise it is just dirt for now.

Evaluation Subcommittee: Wendy asked if the subcommittee had any final comments on soccer or fall programs. Cindy said she networked the parents she knew and everything is fine. Kerri inquired about paper evaluations turned in by parents. Wendy informed her that a few were received and they contained positive feedback.

Kerri asked if the numbers were lower in the first and second grade soccer program this year, due to travel soccer allowing second grade children to participate in their program. Wendy informed her that she did check into it and we did lose some to the travel team but she thought it was more the fourth grade age and older children.

OLD BUSINESS:

Babb's Update: Gerry is at a meeting looking into getting sponsorships and having more Sunday afternoon concerts at Babb's Beach for next summer. The A.C.C.E commission was very positive in regards to getting Babb's Beach open. Wendy met with Ed McAnaney, First Selectman and John Cloonan, Public Works Director, at Babb's to discuss what it would take to get Babb's open. Public Works will not be able to do a lot of the work or construction but they are willing to do in-kind service projects whenever possible. Ed said he would look into funding an architectural study, so Wendy did an RFP (request for proposal) for a conceptual site plan with an architectural element and preliminary costs. The RFP was sent to three companies and from that a fourth one got the RFP. Only one company responded with a proposal for \$5,000.00 to do an architectural rendering of the beach that ties together the upper and lower areas. Wendy has forwarded the proposal to the First Selectman and Public Works and requested a meeting to discuss hiring the company and moving forward with the project.

Leeayn joined the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

A.C.C.E. Update: Wendy distributed last years Parks and Recreation Department A.C.C.E. (Advisory Commission on Capital Expenditures) Projects List. The list contained items that have been on the list for the past 4 – 5 years. The dug outs at Bruce Park have been removed because the project has been funded. Wendy asked the commission if the list is still acceptable. She informed them that the Babb's Beach Conceptual Design Study would be removed if it is funded by the budget from the Selectman so it would not become a capital project. The bath house and the overlook area may be included in the Conceptual design Study or they may be renamed. Wendy inquired if the commission wanted to keep Babb's as a number one capital expenditure. After discussing the issue it was agreed that the list would contain the following items.

1. Bath House Babb's Beach
2. Babb's Beach Overlook Area
3. Bruce Park Field

The list would also contain a note indicating that Parks and Recreation has an interest in outfitting Bridge Street School should it become available.

Leeayn expressed concern regarding the fill that is being put into southwest corner of Bruce Park. She feels that the area will end up having sink holes, and will not be usable as sports fields, due to the decay of the type of fill being placed there.

NEW BUSINESS:

Summer Camps 2014 – Bids: Wendy stated that every year Cindy Fisher sends out RFP's to local area sporting companies that provide athletic summer camps. Wendy provided a list to the commissioners reflecting the results of RFP's.

Tennis Camp. There was one RFP sent out and one response was received. Cindy made a motion to accept Tennis Sports for Life to conduct summer camp for 2014. Mike seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to accept Tennis Sports for Life.

Basketball Camp. There were five RFP's sent out and one response was received. Leeayn made a motion to accept Basketball World to conduct summer camp for 2014. Cindy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to accept Basketball World.

Baseball/Softball Camp. There were three RFP's sent out and one response was received. Cindy made a motion to accept Bob Cressotti's Baseball/Softball to conduct summer camp for 2014. Kerri seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to accept Cressotti's Baseball/Softball Clinics.

Soccer Camp. There were five RFP's sent out and three responses were received. Cindy made a motion to accept Youth Elite Soccer to conduct summer camp for 2014. Mike seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to accept Youth Elite Soccer.

Basketball Program: Wendy informed the commission of a scheduling conflict regarding Parks and Recreation's Youth Basketball program and requests for school gym use. The School changed the policy and we were not aware of the change, thus Cindy Fisher requested gym time under the old policy time frame. This resulted in Parks and Recreation not getting gym space requested. Instead the Travel Basketball club has the days and times. Parks and Recreation did get most of the gym time we requested except at the Middle School on Wednesday and Thursday nights in January and February, totaling 13 days 2 hours per night. That time frame is Parks and Recreation's busiest time with youth basketball.

The school policy has always been and still is that the school gets first rights to reserve school space and then Parks and Recreation is next followed by other groups. The change occurred as to the timing of when requests can be submitted. Wendy and Cindy placed calls to travel basketball in an attempt to work things out, but have not heard from them. A meeting was held with Larry Plano, Facilities Manager and Mikki Randall, Data Specialist from the school to inform them that Parks and Recreation needs this gym time and would like to bump the travel club since we were not aware of the school policy change.

Cindy Nicholson asked Lou for a recommendation. Lou stated that Parks and Recreation has run the basketball program on Wednesday and Thursday nights as long as he has been on the commission and the department has always had priority over the travel

teams. In addition Parks and Recreation is a feeder program for all sports in town and we were not aware of policy changes. Lou also stated that the times that Parks and Recreation requires gym space will be adhered to and he is recommending that Wendy meet with Mr. Plano again to attempt to resolve the matter.

Cindy made a motion to have Wendy meet again with Larry Plano, Facilities Manager, regarding the gym use situation. It is the commission's position that travel basketball needs to be removed from the schedule for the allotted times that Parks and Recreation needs. Leeayn seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to accept the motion.

The motion was revised to send Larry Plano a courtesy email informing him of the commission's position regarding the gym use situation. If a response is not received within 2 business days the matter would be taken up with the Superintendent to inform her of the commissions concerns.

ADJOURNMENT:

Leeayn made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cindy seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerri Milne, Clerk