East Haddam Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2021

Attending: D. Carbo; M. Davis; C. Grillo; M. Larson; T. Piscotti; F. Tremblay
Absent: T. Goodie, M. Roberts; P. Laffan
Guests: L. Conroy; S. Wheeler

1. **Call to Order** - Mr. Davis called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION MADE BY MR. GRILLO, SECONDED BY MR. CARBO, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS WRITTEN. UNANIMOUS AYE.

3. Approval of Minutes

The Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the December 14, 2020 meeting.

MOTION MADE BY MR. GRILLO, SECONDED BY MR. CARBO, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 5, 2020 MEETING AS WRITTEN. UNANIMOUS AYE.

4. Committee Reports

- **Disc Golf** – Ms. Conroy reported that a Port-O-Potty has been installed at Nicols Field and golfers can play through the winter season

  She advised that the "No Dogs Permitted" signs have been installed at Nicols Field and Mr. Laffan will install the rest of them on the disc golf course. Ms. Conroy stated she would contact Ms. Mitchell and advise her that the signs at the park have been installed.

- **Music on the River (MOR)** - Ms. Conroy reported that a committee meeting is scheduled for February 24th to discuss the upcoming season. She stated that some of the topics that will be discussed include alternative locations in case the green between the Goodspeed Opera House and the Gelston House is not available this summer, creating a reservation system, and how to address rain dates.

  The Commissioners discussed the pros and cons of several alternative locations for the event. Mr. Carbo suggested focusing on CT talent this summer to help avoid scheduling issues if any of the concerts have to be cancelled because of bad weather.

5. Director's Report

A. Winter Programs Review – Ms. Conroy provided the following report:

- Skyhawks evening basketball clinics for ages 3-5 and grades 1 thru 8 is going well; however, it has been challenging to get parents of ages 3-5 to comply with the 1-spectator per child rule. Ms. Conroy stated that she has sent out reminders regarding the rule.
- Yoga and guitar lessons are still virtual but Boot Camp has transitioned to in-person.
- Scheduling for Pickle Ball has been somewhat challenging and Ms. Conroy stated she may pause the program for the Month of March.
- The Activity To-Go Kit program has been well received.

B. Planning for Spring & Summer – Ms. Conroy reported the following:

- Basketball for 18+ years will begin March 1st.
- Two on-line boating classes are scheduled for March 28th and early May.
- A Skyhawks Mini-Hawks soccer program for 4–7-year-olds has been scheduled.
- Sara Anderson will coach basketball and track programs for Middle School kids.
- She provided a high-level overview of the summer camp and summer sports camp programs.

Ms. Conroy stated that she is encouraged that there is a Recreation program option for parents every week this summer. She stated that she would like to schedule the adult co-ed softball program and Ms. Larson agreed to email the team captains to assess how many may participate. In response to a question from Ms. Conroy, Ms. Larson acknowledged that Thursdays seem to be a good night to hold the games and Ms. Conroy stated she would reserve Nichols Field on Thursday evenings for the adult co-ed softball league.

C. Improvements/Updates

Ms. Conroy reported there are a number of park and equipment improvements and updates she is working on, including restoration of the tennis courts, the stairs and soccer goals at Nicols Field and repairs to lifeguard station and buildings at the Town Beach. Ms. Conroy stated that a new volleyball net and system will be installed in the gymnasium in time for the fall season and she also plans to make the last two basketball hoops in the gym adjustable. She stated she is also planning to make some minor improvements to the fields behind the Municipal Office Building.

Ms. Larson stated she would forward Ms. Conroy contact info for a local contractor who can provide her with an additional estimate for the door/threshold repairs at the beach.

Mr. Davis stated that constructing a new lifeguard station would be a good Eagle Scout project.

Ms. Conroy reported that she had talked with Bryan McNamara who has installed numerous playgrounds. She stated that Mr. McNamara had provided her with a number of valuable insights regarding planning, budgeting and installing a Town playground. She stated that she has asked Land Use Administrator Ventres for his input on several potential sites for the playground. Mr. Trembley stated that he had spoken with Library Director Gilroy who was very receptive to the idea of installing a playground at the site of a new library, if/when one is planned.

6. **Unfinished Business** – There was no unfinished business discussed at the meeting.

7. New Business

A. Budget 2021-2022 – Ms. Conroy reported that she had requested a 2% overall increase from the 2020-2021 budget. She noted that much of the increase is related to a $1/hour salary increase in minimum wage and funds to modify two basketball hoops in the gymnasium.

Ms. Conroy queried the Commissioners on their preference for Zoom vs. in-person meetings

8. Adjournment

THERE BEING NO ADDITIONAL BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, MR. GRILLO MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. CARBO TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. UNANIMOUS AYE.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Sharon R. Wheeler
Recording Secretary