East Haddam Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2021

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

1. **Call to Order** - Mr. Davis called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

The meeting followed a standard order of business, therefore no approval of the agenda was required.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

The Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the February 8, 2021 meeting.

MOTION MADE BY MR. DAVIS, SECONDED BY MS. ROBERTS, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 8, 2021 MEETING AS WRITTEN. UNANIMOUS AYE.

4. **Committee Reports**

- **Music on the River (MOR)** - Ms. Conroy reported that four concerts are scheduled for August 2, 9, 16, and 23. She stated that, since no indoor back-up venue is available in case of inclement weather and travel restrictions for August are still unknown, the committee is restricting this season's performances to local bands. She advised that both the Middle School grounds and the Goodspeed green space have been confirmed as possible locations for the concerts; however, given social distancing guidelines, the Middle School location offers space for a significantly larger attendance.

  There was a general discussion regarding the event's finances.

- **Disc Golf** – Ms. Conroy reported that there is approximately $3,000.00 in the Disc Golf account and that Mr. Laffan has proposed the funds be used to purchase 18 new baskets for the course. Mr. Laffan advised that the Middle School has asked to buy 4-5 of the old baskets for their use.

  In response to a question raised by Ms. Conroy, Mr. Laffan confirmed that May 20th is the 4th anniversary of the opening of the Town's disc golf course and agreed to draft an article about it for the East Haddam News.

- **Adult Softball** – Ms. Larson reported that six teams have registered for this program. In response to a request from Ms. Conroy for information for the umpires, Ms. Larson agreed to coordinate a meeting of the coaches to discuss rules and game schedules.
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5. Director's Report

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

- Track Club registrations currently stand at 34, Spring Soccer at 83, and the Skyhawks evening basketball clinic registrations are filling up quickly.

- 18+ pick-up basketball is going well; drop-ins are no longer allowed, and she is considering adding another day to the program's schedule in the Fall.

- Pickle ball is scheduled 3x per week and the majority of the participants are vaccinated.

- CPR classes are scheduled for May 22 and 24.

- The March boating certification class went well and nine people are currently registered for the next class.

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

- The summer day-camp staff is in place and, to date, the program has 30 participants registered. Camp will be seven weeks this year and she is hoping to plan some field trips. She also noted that there is approximately $6,000.00 in the summer camp scholarship fund.

- Regarding the Town Beach, there are two lifeguards returning from last year, seven individuals have expressed interest in taking the lifeguard certification class, and she will be scheduling swim lessons this summer.

- Lego, basketball, soccer, and Noises Sports Academy camps are scheduled and registrations for the Lego camp are filling up quickly. She noted that the Noises Sports Camp is a fund-raiser for the Town's athletic programs and has brought in over $10,000.00.

In response to a suggestion from Mr. Grillo, Ms. Conroy noted that the Town could not require the summer camp staff to be vaccinated; however, it is being strongly encouraged.

C. Improvements/Updates

Ms. Conroy reported the following:

- There is $5,000.00 in the budget for a new volley-ball system for the gym and she is working with a vendor to determine which of the two-proposed systems she will purchase. Ms. Conroy advised that the depth of the concrete under they gymnasium floor will have a bearing on which system is chosen but she has not yet determined how to acquire that measurement.

- The Municipal Office Building Committee will be funding renovations to the tennis courts. The updated courts will incorporate pickleball lines and Ms. Conroy reviewed potential plans/locations for the courts.

- She would like to replace the stairs at Nicols Field with concrete steps but does not want to initiate the project until the end of the budget season in case the funds are needed for any unanticipated repairs.

- She plans to paint the bathhouse doors and purchase two new benches for the beach. The old benches will be re-purposed at the dog-park and replacement of the bathhouse doors will be scheduled for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

6. **Unfinished Business** – The following unfinished business discussed:

- In response to a question raised by Mr. Grillo, Ms. Conroy advised that she had inquired about giving the gymnasium an honorarium name, however, the administration at the time was not in favor of doing so. She noted that the Town had also rejected an offer by the Bearcats to donate a scoreboard for Nicols field for a similar reason. Ms. Conroy stated that she plans to revisit the requests with the current Town administrators.

- Ms. Conroy advised that a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new bird's nest swing at the Town Beach is scheduled for July 2nd during day camp.

7. New Business

A. Budget update – Ms. Conroy reported that the Recreation Commission's request for funding in the 2021-2022 budget to install new playground equipment at the Town Beach was cut.

8. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

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