East Haddam Recreation Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
October 4, 2022

Attending: D. Carbo (remotely); B. Free; T. Goodie; M. Roberts; F. Tremblay
Absent: M. Davis; C. Grillo; P. Laffan; T. Pisciotti
Guests: L. Conroy

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

2. **Approval of Agenda**

MOTION MADE BY MR. TREMBLAY, SECONDED BY MR. GOODIE, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS WRITTEN. UNANIMOUS AYE.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

The Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the August 22, 2022 meeting.

MOTION MADE BY MR. TREMBLAY, SECONDED BY MR. GOODIE, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 22, 2022 MEETING AS WRITTEN. MS. ROBERTS ABSTAINED FROM THE VOTE AND THE MOTION PASSED WITH A MAJORITY OF AYES.

4. **Committee Reports**

- **Unified Family** – Ms. Conroy reported that she and Mr. Carbo had discussed scheduling another event for the fall. She noted that they are considering a volleyball event and she will reach out to Sarah Kraszewski to get her input.

- **Music on the River (MOR)** - Ms. Conroy reported that the committee has been collecting submissions which will be reviewed at the beginning of next year. Mr. Tremblay suggested posting a solicitation for recommendations on the website. Ms. Roberts supported his recommendation and Ms. Conroy agreed to update the website with the request for suggestions of musical groups people would like to have at next year's Music on the River events.

5. **Director's Report**

A. **Fall Programs Review** – Ms. Conroy reported that there have been 4970 sign-ins since July 3rd. She also reviewed the following:

- Soccer is going very well and there is strong registration at all levels. She has good parent-coaches and Tim and Riley Cahill volunteer on Tuesdays.
- There are 19 fall programs, including volleyball, pickleball, basketball, yoga, activity kits, art, baby-sitting class and CRP for baby-sitters, and clinics for beginners pickleball, basketball, and cheerleading.

- Lego's grade 1-3 registration is full and has a waiting list. The grade 4-5 Lego program had to be rescheduled to November due to staffing challenges.
- Mr. Grillo has volunteered to oversee Project Safe Halloween which will be held in the Municipal Office Building on October 31st from 5pm to 8pm.

B. **Planning for Winter**

Ms. Conroy reported the following:

- Registration for Youth Basketball is open; there was a general discussion regarding the program.
- She is working with Skyhawks on a pre-K and Kindergarten basketball program.
- She hopes to put together a Karate program. Mr. Goodie agreed to provide Ms. Conroy with contact info for 360 Defense in Colchester.
- She has had an inquiry about scheduling an 18+ indoor soccer program; however, registrations last winter were not sufficient to hold the program so she advised the individual if s/he could put together enough people she would see if she could find gym time for it.
- Family Night, previously held on the Moodus green, will be held on December 1st; however, it may be at a different location.
- She has started planning for Project Jingles which will be held either December 12th or 13th.

Ms. Conroy also reported that the Rec Department had participated in an open house at the Middle School.

6. **Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business discussed at the meeting.

7. New Business

A. **Playgrounds**

Ms. Conroy reported that she has met with Victoria Albright several times to strategize upgrades to the existing playgrounds and discuss plans for a new town-wide playground and potential grants. She stated that an informal advisory committee of six parents has been formed to provide input on new equipment and other playground related issues.

B. **Unified Family Event this fall**

This agenda item was discussed earlier in the meeting and is reported on above under Agenda item #4, Committee Reports.

C. **Facilities/Equipment – Town Beach/Nicols/Municipal Gym**

Ms. Conroy provide the following facilities update:

- She reiterated that the lifeguard stand at the Town Beach needs to be replaced.
- 117 parking-passes for the Town Beach were sold this summer raising $2333.00, and 180 town resident permits were issued. In response to a question from Ms. Roberts, Ms. Conroy confirmed that the parking fee is a Town policy. Ms. Conroy stated that feedback she received from the lifeguards was that there were no more issues once the parking fee was initiated and that the beach was a better/safer environment.
- The new soccer goals for Nicols Field have been ordered
- The windscreen at the tennis courts was installed.
- She has been working with Roy Parker and Brian Barzee from the Municipal Office Building Committee regarding the purchase of scoreboard(s) for the Municipal Office Building gym. She provided them with several options and stated that the committee has allocated sufficient funding to cover the entire cost of two score boards and a console.
- There is an ongoing problem at the dog park which is causing an unsafe/unsanitary condition for the Public Works Maintenance crew. Ms. Conroy advised that, even though sufficient supplies are provided, the dog owners and not properly cleaning up after their dogs, nor are they filling in the holes that the dogs dig in the park.

  There was a general discussion regarding this issue and Ms. Conroy stated she will continue to try to speak to park-goers personally and agreed to look into additional signage; however, if the problem persists next year, she may consider closing the park.

D. **Rec Commission Term Renewal Dan Carbo**

Ms. Conroy recognized Mr. Carbo who stated that, due to other interests he would like to pursue, he had decided not to renew his term on the Recreation Commission. The board thanked him for his service.

8. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

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