**East Haddam Recreation Commission**
**Special Meeting Minutes**
**December 6, 2021**

Attending: D. Carbo; M. Davis; B. Free; T. Goodie; C. Grillo; P. Laffan; F. Tremblay
Absent: T. Piscotti; M. Roberts;
Guests: L. Conroy; Z. Barber

1. **Call to Order** - Mr. Davis called the meeting to order at 7:04 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 October 20, 2021 meeting.

MOTION MADE BY MR. DAVIS, SECONDED BY MR. TREMBLAY, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 20, 2021 MEETING AS WRITTEN. Mr. Davis and Mr. Laffan had not attended the October meeting, therefore, they abstained from the vote. THE MOTION PASSED BY A MAJORITY OF AYES.

4. **Committee Reports**

- **Music on the River (MOR)** - Ms. Conroy reported that the Music On The River committee has not yet met to discuss next season's program; however, she provided a brief update on some of the bands that are being considered.

- **Unified Events** – Mr. Carbo reported that he does not anticipate scheduling a Unified program for the winter. He stated that the next event will be in the spring.

- **Disc Golf** – Mr. Laffan reported that he is working on the layout for the 9-hole "beginner friendly" expansion at the disc golf course. He stated that work on the expansion is expected to begin this winter and solicited volunteers to help with the installation.

  Ms. Conroy reiterated that she would like to initiate a Middle School and High School disc golf program and there was a general discussion about establishing an intramural program.

5. **Director's Report**

Ms. Conroy reported that she had received a request for some obstacle course equipment to be installed at the Dog Park. Mr. Carbo volunteered a 10'x4' playscape tube. Ms. Conroy advised that she had also reached out to Public Works and asked if they had any materials they would like to repurpose.

She provided a brief overview of the department's Operating Budget.

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

- The Rec Department is hosting a Family Night with Santa and Mrs. Claus in the gym on December 7th and there will be a letter to Santa workshop held in the Director's office. She noted that, this year, masks are not mandated; however, to better manage social distancing requirements, she established a reservation schedule for the event.
- Project Jingles, which is staffed by High School and Senior Center volunteers, will write responses to the letters to Santa.
- Adult indoor soccer was cancelled due to low registration numbers.
- 39 registrations were received for the Youth Basketball program and Ms. Conroy reviewed team makeups. She stated that a meeting with several other town Rec Directors is scheduled for December 8th to discuss a game schedule. Mr. Goodie suggested she reach out to the parents of participants and recommend they provide knee pads for their children. In response to a question raised by Mr. Grillo, Ms. Conroy reviewed the plans for practices. She responded to several questions from the Commissioners and there was a general discussion regarding the mask requirement and notifications for cancelled practices/games.
- Registration for the December 13th CPR class is full.
- A third session was added to the K-3rd grade indoor soccer program.
- The 18+ basketball program in the gym is very popular and there was a general discussion about carving out a separate program for the 40-and-over group.
- Ms. Conroy provided an overview of the Cheerleading, Lego, Volleyball, Dodgeball, and High School basketball open gym programs. She noted that she will be adding another session for Pickleball in January.

B. **Planning for Spring**

Ms. Conroy reported the following spring program plans:

- The Pre-K to 3rd grade outdoor soccer program will be scheduled from 2pm-5pm on Saturdays between April 30th to June 11th.
- She is going to speak to a contact at CT DEEP about administering a fishing program for the Rec Department.
- The Department will again host a state boating certification class.
- She plans to schedule Skyhawks, Mini Hawks and Super Tots soccer, basketball, and baseball programs.

C. **Improvements/Updates**

Ms. Conroy reported the following:

- The volleyball system in the gym has been installed and she is waiting for the adjustable basketball hoops to be mounted.
- The Lauria family donated a ping-pong table to Park & Rec and she is hoping to schedule ping-pong clinics for Middle School kids.
- First Selectman Haines is researching having a spiderweb jungle gym donated for Nicols Field and, if she is successful, several pieces of playground equipment will have to be moved around.
- She received an estimate of $7,500.00 for mulch for the Nicols Field and beach playgrounds. She stated that she plans to stage the purchase of the mulch to do the beach playground first and then the Nicols Field playground after the new jungle gym is installed.

- Since it will cost approximately $4,500.00 to install concrete stairs at Nicols Field, she hopes to use FEMA funds to restore the stairs with sand/gravel to their pre-storm state and request funding for the concrete stairs in the upcoming budget. There was a general discussion regarding doing the restoration in such a way that it provides a base for the concrete stairs. The Commissioners also discussed handicapped access.
- She would like to purchase new soccer goals for 2022 and possibly install a new batting cage at Nichols Field. There was a general discussion regarding the best location for a batting cage.
- The Corraro Family would like to donate a scoreboard for Nicols Field and she will follow-up with them.

6. **Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business discussed at the meeting.

**7. New Business**

A. **New Programs**

Ms. Conroy reported that she is planning to bring in Abrakadoodle to manage an arts and crafts program and is considering a scheduling a Saturday open-gym program for families during the winter months.

B. **Town Beach Multi-Sport Area Update**

Ms. Conroy introduced Zane Barber, Vice President of the Soccer Club, who reviewed potential plans for a sand-based soccer field/volleyball courts at the Town Beach. Mr. Barber advised that he, Ms. Conroy, and Land Use Administrator Ventres will walk the area to determine the feasibility of the proposal. He noted that it would be ideal to install drainage for the fields and responded to several questions from the Commissioners.

**8. Adjournment**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

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