East Haddam Recreation Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2023

Attending: B. Free; T. Goodie; C. Grillo; M. Roberts; F. Tremblay
Absent: M. Davis; J. Kehlenbach; P. Laffan; T. Pisciotti
Guests: L. Conroy

1. **Call to Order** - Mr. Grillo called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

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

3. **Approval of Minutes**

The Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the December 5, 2022 meeting.

MOTION MADE BY MR. TREMBLAY, SECONDED BY MR. GOODIE, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 5, 2022 MEETING AS WRITTEN. MS. ROBERTS ABSTAINED FROM THE VOTE AND THE MOTION PASSED WITH A MAJORITY OF AYES.

4. **Committee Reports**

- **Music on the River (MOR)** - Ms. Roberts reported that the Music Selection Committee has started negotiations with several bands and expect to finish choosing the lineup by March. She stated that this summer's series of six concerts will begin on July 17th and they are hoping to negotiate with the Goodspeed Theatre to have Tuesdays for rain delays. Ms. Conroy stated that she reached out to the airport to request the use of part of their area for parking but has not heard back from them yet.

- **Disc Golf** – In Mr. Laffan's absence, this report was postponed.

- **Unified** – Ms. Conroy reported that a Unified volleyball event was held but it did not have a high turnout. Another event will be planned for the spring.

5. **Director's Report**

A. **Winter/Spring Programs Review** – Ms. Conroy reported the following:

- Registration for Skyhawk basketball programs and the 1st and 2nd grade basketball program were filled.

- Basketball clinics are going well.
- Futsal registration is full and Indoor Soccer has a waiting list.
- Abrakdoodle and Lego after school programs are scheduled.
- She is planning another after school program for early April.
- A CPR class is scheduled for May 17th and 20th.

In response to an inquiry from Mr.Grillo, there was a brief discussion regarding the height of the volleyball net.

B. **Summer Planning**

Ms. Conroy advised that she is working on the summer camp programs and noted that a lot of the veteran staff is returning. She reported the following:

- Day camp will run from July 10 through August 18 and she is planning for two field trips per week and Fridays at the Town Beach
- Noises Sports Academy will be held at the High School and will be staffed predominantly by the High School coaches.
- There will be a Skyhawks programs for 2-7 year olds.
- There will be golf, tennis, art, and soccer camps.

Ms. Conroy stated that the CT Early Childhood Alliance has proposed legislation requiring licensing for municipal camps. She advised that the licensing requirements are challenging and would add significant cost to the Recreation Commission's camp programs which would have to be passed onto the consumer. She noted that she had sent a letter to Representative Haines, who will speak to legislators on behalf of the East Haddam Recreation Commission, and had also sent testimony to the committee considering the legislation.

C. **Budget Update**

Ms. Conroy reviewed the department's FY2023-2024 budget request and noted it represented a 7% increase from the previous fiscal year. Ms. Conroy provided information about several budget line increases. Mr. Goodie suggested the Commission might consider doing an annual fundraiser to offset some of the increased expenses.

Ms. Conroy discussed several Capital Project requests.

6. Unfinished Business

A. **Playgrounds**

Ms. Conroy reported that the Playground Committee had met with Land Use Director Ventres to discuss two potential sites for the community playground

7. New Business

A. Town Beach Improvements

Ms. Conroy reviewed a proposal to install a kayak storage unit at the beach and stated that the storage spaces could be rented to Town residents. Ms. Conroy advised that she had discussed the idea with Facilities Director Angersola and they also discussed offering the construction of the storage unit as an Eagle Scout project. There was a general discussion regarding the proposal.

B. Town Beach Fee

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Ms. Conroy reviewed information regarding beach passes sold last year and the Board discussed the option of the Town selling annual passes. Ms. Conroy suggested a fee of $120.00 for an annual pass and stated she would distribute information to the Board on what surrounding municipalities charge for an annual non-resident beach pass. The consensus of the Board was to continue to impose a daily charge for non-residents to park at the Town Beach and to consider offering an annual pass after they review Ms. Conroy's research.

In response to a suggestion made by Ms. Conroy, the Board discussed imposing a rental fee to use the pavilion at the Town Beach for defined periods. Ms. Conroy provided an overview of the fees charged by state and CT municipalities to rent pavilions at their beaches.

MOTION MADE BY MR. GOODIE, SECONDED BY MR. TREMBLAY, TO IMPOSE A CHARGE TO RENT THE TOWN BEACH PAVILION WHICH WOULD CONSIST OF A REFUNDABLE $100.00 DEPOSIT AND A $25.00 PER HOUR FEE. UNANIMOUS AYE.

8. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

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