East Haddam Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2024

Attending: B. Free; T. Goodie; P. Laffan; B. Thiele; F. Tremblay
Absent: C. Grillo; M. Roberts
Guests: L. Conroy, C. King

1. **Call to Order** - Mr. Tremblay called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

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

3. **Approval of Minutes**

The Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the February 12, 2024 meeting.

MOTION MADE BY MR. GOODIE, SECONDED BY MS. FREE, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 12, 2024 AS WRITTEN. UNANIMOUS AYE.

4. **Committee Reports**

- **Disc Golf** – Mr. Laffan reported that there is no new update regarding the disc golf course.

- **Music on the River (MOR)** - Ms. Conroy reported that the committee is finalizing its 2024 line-up and concerts are scheduled weekly starting July 1st and ending August 5th. She noted that the committee will meet on April 30th to work on its fundraising mailing. She also stated that the challenges they are working through are the proposed location of the Goodspeed's "Meet & Greet" tent on the green where the concerts are held and the construction of round-abouts on the Haddam side of the swing bridge.

5. **Director's Report**

A. **Spring/Summer Preview**

Ms. Conroy reported the following:

- Soccer will begin April 27th but registration in the 1st and 2nd grade program has fallen off because the Soccer Club is now also opened up to those grades. She responded to several questions from the Board members and reviewed information about age-related registrations and coaching staff.

- She plans to offer classes in Stop-the-Bleed, first aid, and CPR.
- The tennis/pickle ball courts were opened early.
- A 7th and 8th grade girls' volleyball open gym is planned.
- There was an overwhelming response to the open gym for home schooled students and Mr. Freidman organized the program to accommodate all participants.
- The Mad Science program starts April 15th and the Skyhawks track & field program will start April 16th.
- Indoor men's soccer is going well.
- She is planning a 40+ dodge ball program and a family "unplugged" event for April 19th.
- Summer camp opened April 1st and registrations for the field trips has been very strong; $90k in income was recorded the first day of registrations. As a result, she will limit out-of-town registrations initially.
- 6-7 beach lifeguards and 18 camp staff are returning; she has also received 14 applications for the 7-8 camp positions and will be scheduling interviews in the near future.
- She looked into how to accept non-cash payments and confirmed that Venmo is not an option; she is still researching other alternatives.
- She is working with the BOE on locking down an opening date for the Noises Sports Academy.
- Other spring/summer camps include: Lego camp, Abrakadoodle, Skyhawks golf, tennis and track & field camps, and a mini-Hawks program.

B. **Budget Update**

Ms. Conroy called the Board's attention to materials in their meeting packets regarding their budgets. She provided a brief overview of the FY2023-2024 Operating budget and provided information regarding the FY2024-2025 Operating and Capital budgets.

Ms. Conroy stated that the proposed FY2024-2025 Salary & Wage requests were all approved; however, the capital request for new gym mats was cut. She noted that she is researching using funds from the Rec Commission's Special Revenue budget to purchase and install new mats. She also noted that she is waiting to hear whether or not the Town will approve using ARPA funds for a new beach slide.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. **Parks Updates**

- **Dog Park** - Ms. Conroy called the Board's attention to materials in their meeting packets regarding Shagbark's agreement with the Town to sponsor the dog park and there was a general discussion regarding the decision to accept Shagbark's offer. Ms. Conroy noted that it would still be the Town's responsibility to mow the area.

- **Nicols Field** – Ms. Conroy reported that the electrical work at Nicols Field has been completed and that she is working on getting a baseball and soccer scoreboard for the field.

- **Tennis/Pickle Ball Courts** – A bench and picnic table will be installed under the tree on the hill above the courts.

- **Town Beach** – The new kayak rack(s) will be installed in 4-6 weeks.

- **Community Playground** – The Community Playground Committee has reconvened and its current proposal is estimated to cost $1M. Ms. Conroy noted, however, that they are still refining their design and fundraising plan and a phased-in development plan is being discussed.

7. New Business

Ms. Conroy presented several new Recreation Commission logo designs and there was a general discussion regarding the drawings.

A. New Appointment Discussion

Ms. Conroy introduced Christine King who had submitted her application for appointment to the Recreation Commission. Ms. King provided brief introductory comments.

MOTION MADE BY MR. LAFFAN, SECONDED BY MS. FREE, TO ACCEPT CHRISTINE KING'S APPLICATION TO THE RECREATION COMMISSION AND RECOMMEND IT BE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN. UNANIMOUS AYE.

8. Adjournment

Ms. Conroy advised that the Commission's next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on June 17th.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

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