East Haddam Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 17, 2024

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

1. **Call to Order** - Mr. Grillo called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda reflected the standard order of business, therefore, its approval was waived.

3. **Approval of Minutes – Meeting of April 15, 2024**

Review and approval of the minutes of the April 15, 2024 meeting was postponed.

4. **Committee Reports**

In the absence of Ms. Roberts and Mr. Laffan, Recreation Commissioner Conroy provided the following committee reports:

Music on the River (MOR) – Music on the River's 2024 line-up has been finalized and Ms. Conroy circulated this year's fundraising brochure. She stated that donations are approximately $1,200.00 below last year's total at this time. She also noted that she is working on being able to accept Venmo payments for donations and drop-in fees. She showed the Commissioner's the winning design for the 2024 MOR tee-shirts and noted that the High School AP arts student who created the design will be awarded a $125.00 cash prize. There was a general discussion regarding the cost and profit margin for the MOR t-shirts.

Disc Golf – There is no new update regarding the disc golf course.

5. **Director's Report**

A. **Spring/Summer Preview**

Ms. Conroy reported the following:

- The 1st through 4th grade soccer program has been completed. She advised that the coaches are working closely with the Soccer Club to ensure the Rec program participants are getting the appropriate training and skills to be able to move up and into the Soccer Club programs.

- The Pickle Ball program has moved outdoors. Indoor gym time is scheduled for Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. She showed the Commissioners a draft list of rules that she plans to have posted on a permanent sign at the courts.

- There are 115 registered summer camp participants for every week of camp. She was able to add 15 new slots to the program by utilizing the Middle School café for activities. A total of $5,277.00 in scholarships were awarded to 11 campers. She has secured several sponsorships for the planned

special events. Ms. Conroy advised that 70-75% of last year's staff is returning this summer and she circulated a "Meet the Staff" brochure among the Commissioners.

- She reviewed registration statistics for the Noises Sports Academy with the High School coaches and noted that Nutmeg Pharmacy is sponsoring the program.
- Art and Lego camps are scheduled for July and, to date, there 22 registrations for soccer camp.
- 18+ men's basketball is going well; however, the men's 35+ basketball program is not being scheduled for this summer due to low registration numbers.
- The indoor soccer program will not be held during the summer months because the gym is needed for other programs and registration numbers have been low.
- The volleyball program is going well and she is working on an open gym program for 7th and 8th graders.
- She is working on a basketball clinic for 7th through 12th graders and, possibly, 3rd through 6th graders.
- A Stop-the-Bleed class is held every third Monday
- A "Yoga with Colleen" program is scheduled at the Ray Hill Farm. 50% of the profits of the program will benefit the animal sanctuary at the farm and 50% will go toward the Lukas Breton scholarship fund.

B. **Budget Update**

Ms. Conroy reported that Consumer's Union has made a $20k donation toward the purchase/installation of the new slide for the Town Beach playground. She stated that between that donation and ARPA funds, the Rec Commission will only have to contribute approximately $3,000.00 toward the project. She showed the Commissioners pictures of the slide and reviewed its features.

MOTION MADE BY MR. GOODIE, SECONDED BY MR. TREMBLAY, TO ACCEPT A DONATION OF $20,000.00 FROM CONSUMER'S UNION FOR THE PURCHASE/INSTALLATION OF SLIDING EQUIPMENT FOR THE TOWN BEACH PLAYGROUND. UNANIMOUS AYE

Ms. Conroy advised that the following capital requests were not approved for the 2024-2025 budget: new gym mats, funds for a community playground complex, and the municipal fields project.

6. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. **Parks Updates**

Nicols Field – Ms. Conroy reported that the Pirates Tower at the Nicols Field playground has been installed and the pavilion is being power washed prior to have it painted.

Tennis/Pickle Ball Courts – Four 10' benches have been installed around the courts and a picnic table is coming for under the tree on the hill above the courts. She noted that the benches and picnic table were

paid for out the the Commission's Special Revenue Fund (Pickleball). There was a general discussion concerning the color of the benches.

Town Beach – Sand was delivered to the beach and new benches and two new kayak racks, built by Eagle Scout Aaron Allen, were installed. There are a total of 16 slots on the kayak racks and each will be rented out for $20/month or $80 for the season. She circulated a copy of the registration form which included the rules for using the racks. A thank you celebration for Scout Allen will be held at the beach on July 19th.

A damaged tree and several old stumps were removed from the park and repairs to the bathrooms are being completed.

Ms. Conroy reported that the beach is currently being staffed by lifeguards and a portion of the beach attendant's salary is covered by payments for non-resident daily passes. She noted that, as of July 1st, residents will have to update their Town stickers. There was a general discussion regarding the most cost-effective, non-disruptive way to have residents receive their stickers.

Dog Park – The Town Public Works employees completed their final mowing of the Dog Park on June 12th.

B. **Logo** – Recreation Commissioner Conroy displayed a planned new logo for the Rec Commission. She noted that the bluebird on the tree swing represents joy, health, and happiness and it will be carried through to a simplified logo for staff shirts, etc.

7. **New Business**

A. **Beach Volleyball Courts, Beach Soccer** – Ms. Conroy stated that, in response to a request from some residents, she has been researching the possibility of installing beach volleyball and soccer courts at the Town Beach. There was a general discussion regarding possible locations for the fields. Ms. Conroy noted that the projects would have to be prioritized and she did not expect any movement on them before next spring.

B. **Beach Playground** – This agenda item was discussed earlier in the meeting and is reported on in the above minutes under Directors Report – Budget Update.

8. **Adjournment**

Ms. Conroy advised that the Commission's next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on August 26th.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

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