East Haddam Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2024

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

1. **Call to Order** – Mr. Grillo called the meeting to order at 7:02 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 June 17, 2024**

   The Board reviewed the minutes of the June 17, 2024 meeting.

   MOTION MADE BY MR. GOODIE, SECONDED BY MS. FREE, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 17, 2024 AS WRITTEN. UNANIMOUS AYE.

4. **Committee Report**

   Ms. Conroy reported that the Music on the River committee is accepting submissions for the 2025 season. She stated that the starting balance for 2025 is $18,500.00, which is up $1,500.00 from the start of the 2024 season.

   In response to a question from Mr. Grillo, Ms. Conroy confirmed that the committee is open to accepting new members and stated that there are currently several openings they are working to fill.

5. **Director's Report**

   A. **Summer/Fall Review** – Ms. Conroy reported the following:

   - She reviewed the summer camp program, noted there were wait lists for several weeks of camp, that 13 scholarships were awarded for a total of $5,953.25, that all of the field trips sold out, and the "Special Visitor" events were well received. She advised that they had surveyed the families of campers and their feedback will be helpful for planning for next year.

- $150.00 was donated to the Youth & Family Services Summer Palooza event for an inflatable.

- She also the reviewed the Soccer Camp, Noises Sports Academy, Open Gym, Volleyball and Basketball programs.

Ms. Conroy provided an update on the following fall programs:

- Parks & Rec is collaborating with the Police Union and Youth & Family Services on Project Safe Halloween and planning is going well. She provided a presentation of several of the decorations for the event.

- The soccer program wrapped up last weekend and play level assessments are being done of the 3rd thru 6th grade soccer registrants. Soccer Club is using the field behind the Municipal Office Building since the Middle School fields are closed for repairs.

- The Lego program is being offered again; however, the Abrakadoodle and Mad Science programs were pulled due to low registration.

- Registrations for the Middle School Food Explorers and Baby Sitters programs are full.

- There are 7 dates available at the High School for the Youth Open Gym program; she is scheduling 3 days for the girls and 3 days for the boys, and holding the extra day in reserve.

- Open Gym for home-school families is being offered to East Haddam and Haddam residents and, after some tweaks, is going well.

- Two basketball clinics, 18+ and 30+ basketball, indoor Pickle Ball, Boot Camp, and Yoga programs are also on the schedule for the fall.

B. **Winter Preview** – Ms. Conroy reviewed the following winter programs:

- Kids Night on the Green is scheduled for December 6th.

- Project Jingles, writing responses to letters to Santa, will be held at the Senior Center on December 12th.

- Other potential winter programs include Youth Basketball, Abrakadoodle, Indoor Futsal, Mad Science, Cheer Leading, and Food Explorers.

There was a general discussion about the availability of the Middle School stove for the Food Explorers program.

Ms. Conroy advised that she is meeting with area Recreation Directors on December 12th to draft a basketball game schedule.

6. **Unfinished Business**

A. **Parks Updates** – Ms. Conroy reported the following:

Nichols Field

- New scoreboards were added to the playing fields using ARPA funds.
- A Pirates Tower was installed at the playground.
- The baseball infield was turned over.
- The gazebo was painted.

Town Beach

- A new handicapped accessible gate will be installed.
- The beach ran very smoothly this summer.
- There were three beach attendants and six lifeguards; a 7th lifeguard was added at the end of the season to cover until Labor Day.
- 99 beach passes were sold.
- Three kayak rack slots were rented out.

Pickle Ball/Tennis Courts

- A new Rules sign was installed.
- The height of the wind screen was adjusted to reduce stress on the fence.
- A new bench and picnic table were installed.
- Four new net systems will be ordered for next year @$400.00/each.
- A Push/Pull sign will be installed on the gate.

Skateboard Park

- Other than one slight graffiti incident, use of the park is running smoothly.

7. **New Business**

Ms. Conroy advised that Aaron Allen had a surplus of funds from his fundraising for his Eagle Scout project and would like to donate it to the Parks & Rec programs. The Commissioners discussed potential uses for the funds.

MOTION MADE BY MR. GOODIE SECONDED BY MS. KING, TO RECOMMEND THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN ACCEPT A DONATION TO THE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION IN THE AMOUNT OF $734.47 FROM AARON ALLEN. UNANIMOUS AYE.

8. **Adjournment**

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 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Sharon Wheeler
Recording Secretary