East Haddam Recr6ation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2024

Attending: B. Free; T. Goodie; C. Grillo; C. King; F. Tremblay
Absent: P. Laffan; M. Roberts; B. Thiele
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 October 21, 2024**

   Approval of the minutes of the October 21, 2024 meeting was postponed.

4. **Committee Reports - none**

5. **Director's Report**

   A. **Winter Programs** – Ms. Conroy reviewed the following winter programs:

   - Kids' Night on the Green was held on December 6th and approximately 400 participants attended. The event was co-sponsored by EMP Apparel, Nutmeg Pharmacy, Moodus Ice Cream Parlor, and Jansky's Rubbish Removal Co. The Moodus Ice Cream Parlor also donated two gift cards for the winners of the scavenger hunt. Scott Jezek donated numerous Santa Claus statues for decorations. The following groups also collaborated on the event: Youth & Family Services, the Police and Fire Departments, the Moodus Drum & Fife Corps, and numerous volunteers.

     There was a brief discussion regarding plans for the 2025 Kids' Night on the Green event.

   - She provided registration numbers for the basketball program and stated that there are a number of great parent-coach volunteers.

   - She reviewed registration numbers for the Elementary School Skyhawks programs and noted that a Kindergarten clinic is also being planned.

- She stated that the Yoga, Boot Camp, Indoor Soccer, 30+ Basketball, and 18+ Basketball, Volleyball, and Open Gym for home-schoolers programs are all going well and the Babysitting class has a waiting list

- She discussed potential changes in the Abrakadoodle, Mad Science, and Food Explorers programs.

- There are 17 participants in the 4-week Youth Skills & Drills program.

- Outdoor Pickleball courts were closed on December 1st.

The following programs are scheduled for January through March:

- A futsal program, the When I'm In Charge babysitting class, CPR for Babysitters, and a Puzzle Palooza event.

- She is working on scheduling a Pickleball clinic and a Cheerleading clinic.

- She met with the Portland, Cromwell, and Haddan-Killingworth Recreation Directors and they drafted the 3rd & 4th grade basketball schedule.

There was a general discussion about alternatives to getting the word out about Rec programs in light of the Superintendent's prohibition on putting fliers from non-BOE groups in students' backpacks.

B. **Spring Preview** – Ms. Conroy provided the following Spring preview:

- She is planning an Animal/Wildlife Legos program.

- DEEP will teach a Boating Class.

- She is planning to shift the Food Explorers program from the Middle School level to Elementary School grades.

- She discussed the Outdoor Soccer program, Music on the River, and the Noises Sports Camp, Day Camp, and Soccer Camp.

- She reported that registration for the Skyhawks golf and tennis programs has been historically low so she is investigating alternatives.

C. **Budget Update** – Ms. Conroy advised that the deadline for submitting departmental Capital requests for the 2025-2026 budget is the middle of January. She stated that the Community Playground Committee is reworking its proposal to achieve a more affordable plan and she will include additional funds for that project in her 2025-2026 Capital requests.

She noted that Chaps basketball court at Nicols Field has $16k in the budget for refinishing but is currently in very good shape. She stated, however, that she will get updated estimates for the refinishing work to ensure there will continue to be sufficient funds in the budget for the project. She also stated she will resubmit a request for new gym mats in her 2025-2026 Capital requests

She stated that the cost for the Rec Department's program registration software is based on the department's revenue and, since revenues increased this year, the cost of the software increased proportionately.

For the 2025-2026 Operating Budget, Ms. Conroy advised that she will request an increase in the Wages & Salaries line for the Town Beach staff.

6. **Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business discussed at the meeting.

7. **New Business**

Ms. Conroy advised that she would like to apply for a grant for summer camp visitor programs.

MOTION MADE BY MR. TREMBLAY, SECONDED BY MS. KING, TO AUTHORIZE RECREATION DIRECTOR CONROY TO APPLY FOR A GRANT FROM Community Foundation of Middlesex County TO FUND Summer Camp special activities and visits and possibly Music on the River. UNANIMOUS AYE.

8. **Adjournment**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Sharon Wheeler
Recording Secretary