

Recreation Advisory Board

Minutes of the July 20, 2016 Meeting

Present: Gerald Martin, Ray Stewart, Jeff Blinderman, Julie Cagle. Bill Nash called to say he could not make the meeting. Staff: Vicki Daniels, Tom Dougherty, Lee-Ann Gomes.

Meeting called to order by Gerald Martin, as there is no current Chairman, at 6:05pm.

Introductions

Rec Program Updates; Vicki reviewed Recreation programs, including the Summer Camp, (see attachment). She noted that camp is 100% self-sustained by fees. There were some questions on the camp, the waterfront, fishing derbies, and the softball league which Vicki addressed. Mr. Martin had concerns regarding Mohegan Park and he was informed that that property is under the purview of Public Works.

Vicki noted that the Rec Dept. was poised to run a **swimming lesson** program this year but had to defer the program due to budget cuts, which reduced lifeguard staff and the hours the pond is opened. Lee noted that the head lifeguard will develop a pro-forma and that we will write grants to ensure we have enough funding to implement this program next year. Julie, who had been a member of the Community Center Exploration Committee, stated she thought that providing swimming lessons was very important, especial in light of the fact that the community center idea is not going forward.

The recent **Splash and Dash** event was discussed. Vicki informed the group about bringing this Du-It event to Norwich and how well received it was. There were over 150 children participating in the run-swim-run event. This professionally timed event brought people from three states into Norwich and was great success. The Rec Dept. is looking to participate and host more events such as these.

Budget: Lee reviewed the **2016-17 budget** and noted that the Department sustained a \$14,000 cut from the City Manager's recommended budget. This impacted lifeguard and seasonal maintenance staff. Gerry noted that the cuts were made after the Stet of CT budget revealed a shortfall to Norwich. Lee informed the group that no funding was allotted for a Rec Director and that for this fiscal year, things will remain as they are currently. Vicki reviewed with the group how short staffed we are and the lack of capacity that we have to develop new programming because of this. Lee noted that NHS has assumed some clerical duties to alleviate the workload, and that eventually a new program called Web Track will help with registrations and the brochure. The Rec has already purchased this software but could not implementing it as it is reliant on the new phone system, which has been delayed.

New Business

Election of Chairperson; This item was tabled. Lee to send out by laws of other similar advisory groups so that people could see the duties and responsibilities before agreeing to be chair this committee.

Capital Projects; Tom updated the group that the Rec is currently updating lighting on Jenkins, Taftville and Buckingham courts.

Tournament Presentation by Jeff Blinderman; Jeff presented an idea to raise funds for the Rec Department while providing a basketball tournament for kids in middle school through high school.(see attachment). The idea is to host an event in November and raise money from team fees, corporate sponsorships and perhaps admission fees. Details of this idea were discussed with the Rec Dept. agreeing to offer support and Jeff agreeing to volunteer his time to organize this event. A motion was made Ray and seconded by Gerry to proceed with this idea. Motion passed. Next steps include Vicki calling NFA to secure gym time, developing a flyer, and fleshing out the details.

Meeting adjourned at 7:16pm

Next Meeting

September 21, 2016 at 6:00pm

CITY OF NORWICH

Recreation Advisory Board

July 20, 2016

- **Summer Camp**: For grades K to 8 with a CIT Program 9th and 10th graders. June 23 to Aug 19. Held at Rec. Complex. Consists of a Camp Director and 2 Camp Supervisors, 16 Counselors and 1 first aid. Also, Summer Youth program has 2 youths helping out with camp. Location is Norwich Recreation Dept. complex. The program runs primarily outdoors with exception of some activities held in the Rec. Hall. During inclement weather the program is held inside Kelly Middle School. We are using the gym and art room. The program runs from 9 am to 4 pm Monday through Friday with am care from 7-9 and pm care from 4-6. The camp averages 80-100 children per week. It is an 8 week program. New this year am snack and supper.

We received a \$7,000 grant from The Community Foundation of Eastern CT for scholarships.

- **Men's Softball**: The Men's Softball League is going well. Sean Ryan is supervising the league. Playoffs will begin in Aug – depends on makeups. Fall Ball meeting is July 25th.
- **Beach**: Beach opened June 20th with 1 Headguard, 1 asst. headguard, and 4 guards. Due to budget cuts we lost 1 guard position. We had planned to offer swim lessons however because of the loss of the lifeguard position we were not able to do so. The beach close date is August 21th due to the staff returning to the majority of staff will be returning to college.
- **Summer Fun Runs**: Thursday nights in Mohegan Park. Doug Barlow is supervising the program. Mohegan Striders is running the program.
- **Summer Basketball Clinics**: Ran a program for HS in June and another for the month of July for grades 6th through 12th. NFA Basketball Coach Chris Guisti. All participants will receive a basketball.
- **Otis Library**: Continuing sponsoring preschool programs with Otis Library. New programs for children through 8th grades. Also borrow a book program at Camp and Beach.
- **Tennis: Offered** spring tennis program for children in grades 1st through 8th and Advanced Lessons in June. Laura Seder Tennis Lessons is being offered for free. Sponsored by Bart Sayet. 40 Children are registered
- **UkSoccer** – started this week.
- **Legos Pre-engineering and Engineering** – started with week.
- **Tball** – new coach – Tim Strong
- **Family Day** – Sept. 25th and 29th Annual Harry O Fun Run
- **Trips** Boston – October 8 - \$39 & New York – December 3 - \$49
- **Walking Club**: The walking club is supervised by Irene Whirhol. They walk Mondays and Wednesday at 5:30 pm in Mohegan Park.

- **April Vacation Camp** – great turnout. Held at rec. dept.
- **Fishing Derby** – 3rd annual derby approx. 60 children registered. Donations made by Thayers, Stop & Shop and Dunkin Donuts.
- **Wrestling** – brand new program, Coach Kirk Jenkins, NFA. Approx. 40 children registered. Went very well – hope to offer again.
- **Sewing through 4-H** – brand new. Children 8 -12 - very popular filled, offered 2nd hour. Will offer again in the fall.
- **Social Group for adults with special needs** – Meet every other Monday from Sept. to June. Movie, Night, Bingo Night, Bowling, Art House, end of year picnic. 25 participants. Went very well.
- **Safesitter** – offer throughout the year. New curriculum beginning July. We will be purchasing and offering.
- **Triple Crown – Youth Race 5-17** – Proud to Du it – New London, Norwich Splash and Dash, Run Swim Run Mohegan Park, 147 participants, Sponsors: Dime Bank, Bart Sayet, Sr. Center, Youth Services, DD, Shoprite. Proud to Tri Triathlon, Camp Harkness.
- **Yoga, Zumba, BellyDance**
- **Offered American Red Cross Lifeguard Training** – only one person inquired
- **Randy Deglin Basketball Camp** – NFA Coach Guisti, good turnout
- **Assisted Rose City Basketball league** – Registrations and flyers

Capital Improvement Fund – Purchased a playscape to be installed at the Rec. Center near tennis courts. Building renovations – many updates last front steps.

Program Brochure – solicited approx. \$1500 for brochure. Did not mail out sent through schools and highly visible areas.

Other business: Facility Permits Policy revised. New email set up recpermits.org