

# **Recreation Advisory Board**

## **Minutes of the January 17, 2018 Meeting**

**Present:** Jeff Blinderman, Cheryl Hancin Preston, Bill Nash, Julie Cagle, Stephanie Burnham, Lee-Ann Gomes, Lo Waggoner, Guest, Sam Browning

Minutes from the November 15, 2017 approved.

**Introduction.** The group introduced themselves. Cheryl, the new Rec Department, gave an overview of her past experience and qualifications for the group

### **Program Review**

**Basketball.** Signups for the instructional program are going well. We are still enrolling youth and there are about 70 high school students enrolled. The program will go through mid-March and a three-on-three tournament will be added onto the end of the league. We will be seeking sponsorships to offset any costs. A subcommittee will be formed to work on this.

Other program, including yoga, Girls Circle, and Bootcamp workouts, were briefly discussed. Cheryl noted that instructors have been calling her to offer programs here in Norwich.

The online registration system is now up and running. We discussed effective ways to advertise Rec Programs and will continue with both online and program brochures for maximum exposure. We are also reinvigorating our Facebook page.

Cheryl was recently certified as a lifeguard instructor. We have already begun advertising for lifeguards and a beach front director and assistant for the summer.

### **Facilities**

Lo mentioned improvements being done on fields and facilities and the grading of soil at Hamilton Park PAL Field. Lee mentioned the compliments the department has received concerning the work done.

We discussed long term goals and ways to fund them, including re-surfacing the tennis courts, and turfing Fontaine Field. Recapturing CDBG dollars may be a way to gain funds quickly. Many of our project are on the Capital Improvement plan, however costly items are not likely to get funded.

### **New Business**

The Rec Department received a grant from the Norwich Public Education Fund to provide athletic and youth leadership programs at Kelly Jr. High. This grant was written in conjunction with our Youth and Family Service Bureau and the Adult and Family Services divisions to provide full support to the youth and families who participate. The grant is for \$10,800 to serve 30 youth from March to June, 4 days per week.

**Next Meeting**

**March 21, 2018**