

## RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

May 17, 2007

Attending: J. Gowac; M. Michalski; B. Parker; T. Quinn; M. Roberts; E. Smith  
Guests: C. Deming

Brad Parker called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. and suggested, in deference to the guest in attendance, dispensing with the posted Agenda schedule and speaking with the Recreation Commission applicant first. He introduced Cindy Demming who stated that she is a Social Worker by profession and advised that she had served on the Board of the New Britain YMCA for a number of years and had also worked with the Plainville YMCA. There was a general discussion concerning expanding the programs sponsored by the Recreation Commission and including some additional non-sports oriented classes and programs. Mr. Parker provided Ms. Demming with an overview on how the nomination process works and stated that Ms. Quinn would notify her of the final decision. Ms. Demming thanked the Commissioners for their time and consideration of her application.

### Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the March 15, 2007 meeting were reviewed.

MR. GOWAC MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MARCH MEETING MINUTES. MR. MICHALSKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### Treasurer's Report

Mr. Gowac reported that of the initial \$138,242 appropriation, approximately \$116,942 has been expended leaving a balance of \$21,299.

MR. MICHALSKI MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. SMITH, TO ACCEPT THE TREASURER'S REPORT. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

### Guest and Audience

There were no guests or audience in attendance at this point in the meeting.

### Correspondence

There was no correspondence to discuss.

### Director's Report

Ms. Quinn provided the Director's report covering the following items:

- Camp registration is underway. Response has been slow to begin with but is expected to pick-up.
- There is a lot of work needed to be done at the Town Beach. Over the winter, picnic tables were cut up and used for firewood on the beach. The tables will have to be replaced and the nails and screws left on the beach after the fires will have to be cleaned up.
- There are several projects planned for Nichols Field, including rolling the field and installing the posts around Chapman's Basketball Court. It was noted that the grass at the park has not been mowed this season and the contractor may have to be replaced. A new sign for the park is on order.
- The roster of camp staff is in place and most of the people who were hired are returning staff; the lifeguard schedule is in process.
- All of the spring programs have started and are running smoothly.

- The basement of the Grange is undergoing minor repairs to accommodate the preschool art programs. Going forward, the programs will be able to store their supplies at the Grange.

Ms. Quinn advised that she will be undergoing surgery in July and has been trying to prepare for the summer programs as much as possible in advance. She noted that she has been purchasing materials and supplies for camp from this year's budget excess. She advised that, as discussed at the March meeting, she had also put in for a grant from the Neighborhood Assistance Act.

Regarding replacing the wooden picnic tables, Mr. Smith suggested looking into purchasing tables made from Trex-type material. He advised that Sam's Club has some all-weather tables on sale that fold-up for storage. Mr. Gowac advised that if the tables fold-up, they could be stored at the Sportsmen's Club during the off-season. Ms. Quinn agreed to look into purchasing picnic tables made out of all-weather materials.

In response to a question raised by Ms. Quinn, the Commissioners advised that they had not heard anything further from Mr. Cahill regarding plans for the Soccer Club to assume responsibility for the Town's soccer programs. It was agreed, that Ms. Quinn should proceed with registration for the Town's soccer program.

MR. GOWAC MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MR. MICHALSKI, TO ACCEPT THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### Committee Reports

There were no Committee Reports to discuss.

### Old Business

There was a general discussion concerning the two outstanding applicants for the vacant Recreation Commissioner position. It was noted that Mr. Lusignon's experience is mainly in the area of sports, while Ms. Demming has broader experience with a variety of activities from her work with the YMCA. The Commissioners agreed that, given their current desire to expand the Recreation programs beyond sports, Ms. Demming would be more qualified for the position.

MR. GOWAC MADE A MOTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMENT THAT MS. CYNTHIA DEMMING BE APPOINTED TO FILL THE VACANT RECREATION COMMISSIONER POSITION. MR. MICHALSKI SECONDED THE MOTION AND IT PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ms. Quinn agreed to draft a letter to Mr. Lusignon informing him of the Commissioners' decision.

### New Business

Mr. Parker informed the Commissioners that Chestelm will no longer sponsor Summer Sounds. He noted that the concerts had been held for the past 15 years and are very popular with many Town residents of all ages. He stated that he did not want to see the concerts go away and had approached several organizations to coordinate them. He advised that Candy Nero has expressed an interest in continuing to be involved in planning the events and the Goodspeed has agreed to let the Town use the grassy area between the Theatre and the parking lot for the concerts. He noted that the Goodspeed's two main stipulations are that the concerts could only be held on a Monday or Tuesday evening when the theatre is dark and that the area be cleaned of all debris after the events. Mr. Parker stated that if the concerts are taken over as a Recreation Commission event, they would be covered by the Town's insurance and the Commissioners could provide oversight for set-up, safety, and clean-up for the events.

The Commissioners' agreed that the concerts held a strong appeal to many of the Town's people and that it would be a good program for the Recreation Commission to sponsor. Mr. Parker noted that, due to the late start, only four concerts would be planned for this summer, however, he is hopeful to get back to a full schedule next year. He stated that Ms. Nero is putting together a list of "To Do's", but one of the immediate items that needs to be addressed is making and distributing fliers about the concerts. Ms. Demming volunteered to help with the mailings.

In response to a question about whether or not arrangements would have to be made for food vendors at the concerts, Mr. Parker advised that he will be meeting with the new owner of the Gelston House to discuss having the Beer Garden open during the concerts which would preclude the need for food vendors.

On another subject, Mr. Parker advised that representatives from the East Haddam Stage Company had met with him concerning use of the Grange for two weekends for rehearsals. He stated that they will be on the Agenda to discuss their request at the June 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Mr. Parker stated that a Budget Referendum vote is scheduled for May 29<sup>th</sup>. He noted that the budget submitted by the Recreation Commission was increased as a result of the findings from salary survey commissioned by the Town that the Recreation Director's salary was not competitive with those of surrounding towns; the consultants recommended increasing Ms. Quinn's salary. He noted that the Town's budget process has been complicated by the fact that neither the Governor's nor the State of CT Appropriations Committee budget has been approved yet, so it is impossible to know what kind of state funding the Town can expect.

There being no further business to discuss, MR. MICHALSKI MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. SMITH AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon R. Wheeler  
Recording Secretary