

RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
December 20, 2007

Attending: C. Grillo, M. Michalski; B. Parker, V. Parkus, M. Roberts, E. Smith, T. Quinn

Brad Parker called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the August 16, 2007, September 20, 2007, and November 15, 2007 meetings were reviewed.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. GRILLO, SECONDED BY MR. MICHALSKI, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 16, 2007, SEPTEMBER 20, 2007, AND NOVEMBER 15, 2007 MEETINGS AS WRITTEN. UNANIMOUS AYE.

Director's Report

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

- Basketball registration is going well. An additional coach is needed, but she may have someone starting January 7th. She stated that more referees are also needed. Mr. Smith stated he would be available to referee at some of the games. In response to a question from Mr. Grillo, Ms. Quinn confirmed that games will be held on Saturday afternoons.
- Final Buzzer is scheduled for March 8th and volunteers will be needed to help out.
- A letter in support of the dog park proposal was sent to Ms. Reiter and Ms. Schwartz on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Commissioners.
- She and Ms. Cassella are planning to reinstitute the Village arts festival and Ms. Quinn circulated Ms. Cassella's proposal which outlines the plans for the event. An ad soliciting volunteers for the event was placed in the Town's newsletter.

In response to a question from Mr. Michalski, Ms. Quinn noted that she and Ms. Cassella would represent the Parks and Rec Commission's interest for this event.

- The Commission's Activities Account was flagged as deficient by the auditors and she has been working with Ms. Tatro to set-up new procedures. Ms. Quinn noted that they have received deficiency notices in the past and have always adjusted their practices to comply with the auditor's requests. She noted that the new procedure will be to have all registration forms and fees go to Town Hall. A new budget line under the General Fund will be created and the fees will be deposited there and the registration forms will be sent on to Ms. Quinn. Field trips will still be processed through the Commission's Activities Account.

Ms. Quinn provided additional details on the new procedures and there was a general discussion about how late registrations and partial payments would be processed. Mr. Smith expressed concern that some of the registration forms could be misplaced. Ms. Quinn acknowledged that there are still some details that have to be worked out, but she felt there will be better checks and balances with the new procedures.

Committee Reports

Mr. Grillo reported that the Program Committee had met and decided to increase the following fees:

- Elementary School Day Camp – From \$50 to \$75 per week
- Middle School Day Camp – From \$40 to \$65 per week
- Boot Camp – From \$5 to \$10
- Swimming – From \$25 to \$40
- Parent/Child Soccer was increased to \$10 and capped at \$30
- East Haddam resident adult sports programs - \$20

- Out-of-town adult sports program - \$30

Ms. Quinn noted that the \$10 sibling discount will still apply.

Mr. Parker noted that Ms. Deming had advised him that when she was on the Board at the YMCA, they increased their fees by a small amount on an annual basis. There was a general discussion about whether or not to have a standard policy of increasing the fees every year, however, the Commissioners did not want to adopt that policy. Mr. Parker recommended reviewing fees every November in anticipation of submitting their budget.

Guests and Audience

There were no guests in attendance at the meeting.

Old Business

A. Communication with Youth and Family Services

Mr. Grillo reported that he had raised the subject of improving the lines of communication with Parks and Rec at the last Youth and Family Services meeting. He advised that the meeting participants had discussed what distinguishes a prevention program from a Rec program and noted that, sometimes, it is difficult to distinguish between the two. He advised that Ms. McCabe had said she would get in touch with Ms. Quinn and he expected she will do that after the holidays.

New Business

A. Budget

Mr. Parker stated that the Budget Committee should meet before the next Commission meeting. Ms. Quinn advised that they would need a quorum at the January meeting in order to approve the budget. Mr. Smith stated he would set-up the Budget Committee meeting.

In response to a question from Mr. Grillo about the status of the ski club, Ms. Quinn advised that she has not reinstated the club because Power Ridge Ski Area is closed. The Commissioners discussed other possible ski areas but no decision was made to start up the ski club again.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon R. Wheeler
Recording Secretary