

WOODBIDGE RECREATION DEPARTMENT

John Adamovich – Recreation Director

11 Meetinghouse Lane
Woodbridge, CT 06525
203-389-3446

RECREATION COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES Monday, April 29, 2019

PRESENT:

Commission Members present: Robert Hill, Smith Mowry, Dwight Rowland, and Chester Sharp

Staff: John Adamovich, Director, Theresa Bahner, Pool Director, David Cohen, Recreation Senior Supervisor,

Liaisons: Mica Cardozo, Board of Selectmen

Recorder: Jim Franco, Office Manager

Public: none

Meeting called to order at: 7:07 pm

1) Public Comments: None

2) Minutes: Dwight Rowland **made a motion to approve the minutes of Monday, March 25, 2019. Smith Mowry seconded the motion. All voted in favor.**

3) Liaison Reports: Mica reports A) that Adam is doing the spring mowing and cleaning. He is looking into a cost to clean up around the walking paths at the former Country Club Property. B) Massaro is looking to extend their lease until 2049. C) The Annual Town Meeting is Monday, May 20th. Beecher is looking to make required changes to the mechanical system. John explains that due to the budget cuts, he now has to cut a program hours. The 10 am swim was 10 am to 12:30 pm, will change July 1st to 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Jim added that the pool instead of being open up to the public for 5 hours per day, will only be open to the public for 4.5 hours per day. Mica inquired if the cuts could have come from somewhere else. John explains that he was told by Tony Genovese \$2,000 of the \$4,000 cuts had to come from the personnel line item. In reducing the pool hours, the cuts were able to come from one spot. If fitness hours were cut, it would affect the fitness room for two days. Theresa adds that either of the cuts affects the seniors the most. These are the times that they enjoy and feel safe using the pool or fitness room. Bob explains the history of the midday swim and how in order to keep the midday swim, the additional set of security doors were added to keep swimmers from access to entering the school building.

4) Chairman's/ Vice Chairman's report: Bob report a few bare spot areas at the Fitzgerald Walking Trail – the corner of Beecher Rd and Center Rd, Center Rd near the Firehouse, and the rose garden area, near the pine trees. Commission asked Jim to check with Mary Ellen to nominate "Living Treasures" for Stan.

5) Personnel: Isabella Hescocock, Fayha Dar, Jason Talnose, and Isaiah Duncan , have applied as Swim Instructors at \$10.10 per hour. They have passed their background checks and sex offender list. Dwight Rowland **made a motion to approve the new swim instructors. Bob Hill seconded the motion. All voted in favor.** America Balfour has applied as Sports Leader at \$10.10 per hour. Timothy Rourke has applied

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as Running Club Supervisor at \$22.04 per hour. Tim's rate for the Running Club program is the rate that the other Running Club Professional Supervisors are making. Dwight Rowland **made a motion to approve the Sports Leaders. Smith Mowry seconded the motion.** John explains how in Summer Camp, Recreation has Special Education Instructor Stephanie Critch in charge of training the counselors that have children with special needs. The Rec. Summer Camp is an all inclusive program; open to all in the community. That is why we have Stephanie. Camp runs from 9am to 12 noon, five days per week. The Commission questioned John about the registration form. John highlighted areas where parents/guardians can list special requirements needed. John did a cost analysis of a separate Special Education program, which came to \$8,000 per week. **All voted in favor.**

7) Director's Report:

A) Fitness Center: Fine; going well. Dwight inquires of Mica if any progress is being made in the Old Firehouse renovations. Mica explained that the grant has been extended. The delay is Amity's involvement in the second floor.

B) Outdoor Facilities: John has been placing "No Smoking/No Vaping" signs at the Outdoor facilities, starting with the Pease Rd playground. Also, John added that a former UCONN player will be having a project where special basketball hoops will be installed at the facility. Thirdly, an Eagle Scout will be replacing workout stations at the Fitzgerald Walking trails. He will be replacing stations 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10. In the future, another Scout would be able to replace stations 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9. Finally, Dwight inquires about the plays capes: 1) Are they inspected 2) are they cleaned, and 3) What are the state requirements for inspection and cleaning? John stated that Adam is the Parks Director and is in charge of playground maintenance. Rec will send Adam an email regarding Dwight's concern.

C) Tennis Courts: Jim will check with Tony on what fiscal year the Beecher Tennis Courts repair project are in the budget. Center Courts are open and are very busy.

D) Programs/Sports: we have 270 students enrolled in spring after school program. It is the biggest in years. John highlights that Dave does a really good job, and hires the right people. This is the first time we have ever had twenty enrolled in spring bowling program. More online traffic and flier distribution has been highlighted. Theresa mentioned that she has posted activities on her own facebook page since we are not allowed to have a facebook page of our own. Dwight mentioned that Beth-Wood Baseball's Opening Day saw between 350 to 400 people. Beth-Wood baseball is a good feeder program for the high school. i) Triathlon – We are up to 17 registered for the program. Smith explains how snacks will be donated. A majority of the fund will go to pay for staffing. The goal is 30 students. Saturday, June 8th is the date of the event, between the hours of 9 am and 11:30 am. May 17th is the registration deadline. Smith explains it is a strict deadline, since we are not having a timer, he needs to create the spread sheets for results ahead of time. Jim added that we are ordering the exact number of shirts required. Theresa concluded by stating that the swim tests need to be completed ahead of time. ii) Kids Trail Awareness – Smith mentioned that Betsy is working on an event that will be a Town sponsored program in October. It will start on the Town Green and go to the Fitzgerald Walking Trails. Simultaneously there will be a bike event at Alice Newton Park, sponsored by Amity Bike. There will be a nature quiz on the hiking portion. There will be a crossover at the little playground, and then at the firehouse cross walk. John mentioned to get the Firemen involved in the street for safety in the crossing areas. Jim mentioned to Smith that a permit might be needed with the State because they are crossing a State road. The annual Woodbridge Road Race is

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required to have a permit with the State for using a State road, and Recreation does not even close off or cross any of the State roads used.

E) Financial Report The current expenses are at \$407,348.08. 70.0% Last year at this time, we were \$429,453.72 73.6%. Current income is at \$145,261.43 55.5%. Last year, at this time we were at \$141,099.32, 53.0%. Spending is down \$22,106, and revenue is up \$4,162 during the same fiscal period as last year. We still have camp income to come, and enrollment is just starting. Jim followed up the question from the last meeting about last year's income, that we finished at 93.8%

7) Pool A) Saturday Swim Lessons. Theresa mentions that in the spring there is so much competition from soccer, lacrosse, baseball, and softball. When the program was running on Saturday in the past, students would sign up, but then not attend, and teachers would just be standing around. Instead, she started a new Pre-School level on Tuesday and Thursday. It uses teachers that we already have. So, we are generating more income, at the same expense. In many case, the teachers that we have for Tuesday, and Thursday, are not available to teach on Saturdays. As it is, some can only work Tuesdays or Thursdays. Theresa mentions that we were only able to get two instructors from Orange, during their shutdown. On Saturdays, WAC swims until 10:30, so we would not be able to get into the pool until 11 am. They would need to be 11 am to 11:30 am and 11:30 am to 12 noon. It would probably only work for levels 1 and 2. Once children are in level 3, that is usually the time that they get involved in other sports. John supports Theresa 100%. She illustrates how she was able to accommodate 16 children in the preschool program without having expenses go up, and the income did. Theresa explains when she was asked to run summer swim lessons, the first session barely ran. The second session was cancelled due to low enrollment. We never run an unsafe program because safety and quality is our first priority. She was asked to put together a questionnaire, if there is interest in Saturday Swim lessons for the fall. Theresa appreciates Bob for the questions. Theresa explains that there are 2 students to 1 teacher in levels 1 and 2. She is asked to see what she needs to keep the program safe and viable. The thought was to take advantage of the Orange Pool being closed and not having lessons, but they are expected to be opened by July.

8) Town Plan: no report

9) Dog Park: Still fundraising and that the area will be re-configured.

10) Skating Rink: Dwight will meet with Tony.

11) Summer Concerts . There are 5 Tuesdays in July this year. In case of rain, the rain date will be on Wednesday evening. July 2 – Sounds of Frank, a Frank Sinatra tribute, July 9 Kenn Morr, Folk Music, July 16, “Alex Shilo presents the Music of Bruce Springsteen”, July 23, Shaded Soul, Soul Music, and the final concert is on July 30, West Rock, a Classic Rock band.

12) Policies and Procedures: A) Anti-Bullying document. The changes were made that Andrea suggested at the previous meeting. When ready, the anti-bullying document will be put into action during the 2020 calendar year. Follow up is needed with Gerry Weiner on where we stand with the mandatory reporter.

13) Correspondence: none

Bob Hill made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Smith Mowry seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.