

# WOODBIDGE RECREATION DEPARTMENT

John Adamovich – Recreation Director

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

## RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES Monday, March 25, 2019

### PRESENT:

Commission Members present: Robert Hill, Smith Mowry, Dwight Rowland, Chester Sharp, Jane Shernow, and Andrea Weinstein.

Staff: John Adamovich, Director, David Cohen, Recreation Senior Supervisor,

Liaisons: Mica Cardozo, Board of Selectmen  
Andrew Pels, Board of Finance

Recorder: Jim Franco, Office Manager

Public: Clio Nicolakis and Meagan Acampora

Meeting called to order at: 7:04 pm

1) Public Comments: Clio Nicolakis expressed the need of a Special Needs Kid Camp. Meagan Acampora was upset that the development of this program was cancelled abruptly last summer. It would be offered to those in the afternoon that wanted a longer day. The Camp Director currently is employed by the Orange Middle School. 13 percent of the Community requires special needs. Meagan wanted an explanation over the cancellation last summer. Jim Franco explained that according to our Summer Camp Special Education Consultant that the camp would require a nurse, and it was not in the budget. The program would be held at Beecher South using the Gym, South Assembly, and Pool. John Adamovich apologizes to Clio and Meagan over last summer's cancellation. John will talk to Tony to look into how we can get this program started.

2) Minutes: Dwight Rowland **made a motion to approve the minutes of Monday, February 25, 2019. Bob Hill seconded the motion.** Andrea mentioned that she said that she would hate to cut programs instead of using the word "exclaimed". Also, in the bullying section, "Two adults must be present" needs to be added after "You cannot talk with a child alone" With those changes, **all voted in favor. Chester abstained.**

3) Liaison Reports: Andy Pels reports that the preliminary budget hearing will be on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The mil rate will be increased .99% to 40.23. Increases in Beecher Special Education staff was noted. There will be a joint meeting of the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen on March 27 discussing past problems at Beecher, for instance the mold, and pipe freezing. Andy added that the Outdoor Pool will go with the "abandon building option". Electricity and heat will be cut to the building. Mica explained that the Board of Selectmen recommended a 3% cut in the budget. Bob mentioned that the Town should not wait to look at the budgets. Mica responded that Tony, and the Selectmen and Boards of Finance do look at the budgets during the year. Public Works and Recreation have done a lot to reduce their budget. Andy added that Recreation will need to cut \$3,000 more from its part-time seasonal budget. That amount to ½ of 1 percent. Dwight inquired of Mica about the new Town "Use of Property Form". Mica explained that the new procedure has everything going to Betsy first, and then be

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presented to the Board of Selectmen. She makes sure all proper documentation that the Board needs is turned in.

4) Chairman's/ Vice Chairman's report: none

5) Pool: fine. Swim lessons are full. Orange is using our pool during their renovations. People are sharing lanes. No problems so far. Smith inquired about Saturday swim lessons. Bob raised the question would the income be more than the cost of the program. Smith added can another part time staff member be brought in to run the program in Theresa's absence. The Board wants some clarification on running a Saturday program.

6) Personnel: Emily Giovannone applied as lifeguard at \$10.50 per hour, and Ethan Kaempffer, Mikenna DeMorro, Kaylanna Hauser, Kaylanna Hauser, and Samuel Nagy, as Swim Instructors at \$10.10 per hour. They have passed their background checks and sex offender list. Jim was questioned about the pay rate at \$10.50. Jim explained that the early bird shift is a difficult shift to staff, and they are replacing a person that left at \$10.50 per hour. Bob Hill **made a motion to approve the new swim instructor.** Dwight Rowland **seconded the motion. All voted in favor.** Dwight brought up that there is a Federal law for abuse training of Mandatory reporter. Recreation will check with Gerry Weiner. A) Assistant to Office Manager - John Adamovich explains how the department is growing with responsibilities. Jon DeMayo is trained on the computer, and, RecTrac/WebTrac, and is the only back if Jim is out. One major issue during the day is that when swimmers buzz in the building, we need a staff member to get up to let them into the pool area. All inside doors are locked. This change happened about a year ago because the concern of children wondering to the locker room area. Bob suggested to put together all the responsibilities. Show possible additional income that would pay for the position. John explained that the position used to be full time when Claire Parsons was here. He suggested the possibility of starting  $\frac{3}{4}$  full time at first. Andrea mentioned to bring in some Amity internships to help out for one month that is part of their curriculum.

7) Director's Report:

A) Fitness Center: Fine; going well

B) Outdoor Facilities: not open as of yet. Chester inquired if the grass can be mowed in the back corner of the Pease Road fields. Balls go into the back corner and the high grass is a concern with ticks. John will check with Adam on this.

C) Tennis Courts: Open. Mica stated that the money is in this year's budget to do the Beecher North Tennis Courts this spring.

D) Programs/Sports: Started today. Bowling had 17 students. We are at 146 students. Our goal is 200, and Running Club has yet to start. Dwight mentioned that Opening Day is April 27<sup>th</sup>. i) Triathlon -. Smith mentioned that 7 are signed up for the triathlon. The deadline to register is May 17<sup>th</sup>. The triathlon is June 8<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 11:30 am. It is for grades k through 8. Kathy Adamovich and Sandy Simowitz will work with sign in. Fliers have already gone through Beecher, and they will eventually go through the Middle School. Jim confirmed that we are reserved with the School, and we are all set with two Police Officers for traffic.

E) Financial Report The current expenses are at \$371,398.08. Last year at this time, we were \$399,776.45 68.6%. We should be at 66.64%, but as of 3/25/19 we are at 64.1%. That is 2.54% under budget. Current income is at \$131,244.81 50.1%. Last year, we were at \$127,705.82, 47.9%.

8) Town Plan: no report

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9) Dog Park: Still fund raising. Mica reports at the area will be changed to an L shape to avoid the wet area. Part of it will reach the chestnut area. The existing skating rink will need to be removed. No additional parking spaces are planned. A question was asked if this will affect the Running Club program. John stated that we are packed with cars during the Running Club program, fall and spring Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 7 am to 8:30 am. A suggestion was made that signs be posted for the eight weeks in the spring, and the eight weeks in the fall, that the dog park open at 8:30 am on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from the beginning date to the ending date of the Running Club program.

10) Skating Rink: All approved. Specs need to be developed and to meet with a consultant. Dwight will talk to Tony as Recreation's representative for this project.

11) Policies and Procedures: A) Anti-Bullying document. Andrea suggests that Parent / Guardian be on top and bottom area. The third bullet should be physically, verbally, and emotionally. The third bullet from the bottom should be, we encourage you to leave your cell phone at home. We are not responsible if lost or stolen electronic items.

13) Correspondence: Woodbridge Fire Association thank you letter for the athletic basket donation to the annual Snowflake Dance and Auction. B) Field request from Natalie Prinz from the Amity Girls captains soccer team. They are requesting the Pease Rd field from 9 am to 11 am the week of August 18<sup>th</sup>. Bob suggested that Natalie contact Bill Hoffman as part of the Amity Travel team. Any players that are not on the Travel team's list should be added to their list for insurance puposes.

14) Other Business: Bob brought up a concern that people brought to his attention regarding the email that went out through the former Outdoor Pool email list. Jim Franco explained that the Town wants to consolidate email lists. People that were on that email list were emailed, and if they do not want to be included on the Town's email list, they just needed to let us know. Jim explained his hands were tied on this because it also coincided with a Freedom of Information Act request for this email list. Mica explained that the Town wants to reach out to as many people as possible. Those on the list just needed to let us know if they wanted to be taken off the list. Bob's suggestion was that they should have to notify if they wanted to be on the list.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 22. Several members expressed that they will be unable to attend April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Bob Hill made a motion to have a Special Recreation Commission on Monday, April 29, 2019, at 7:00 pm. Dwight Rowland seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

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